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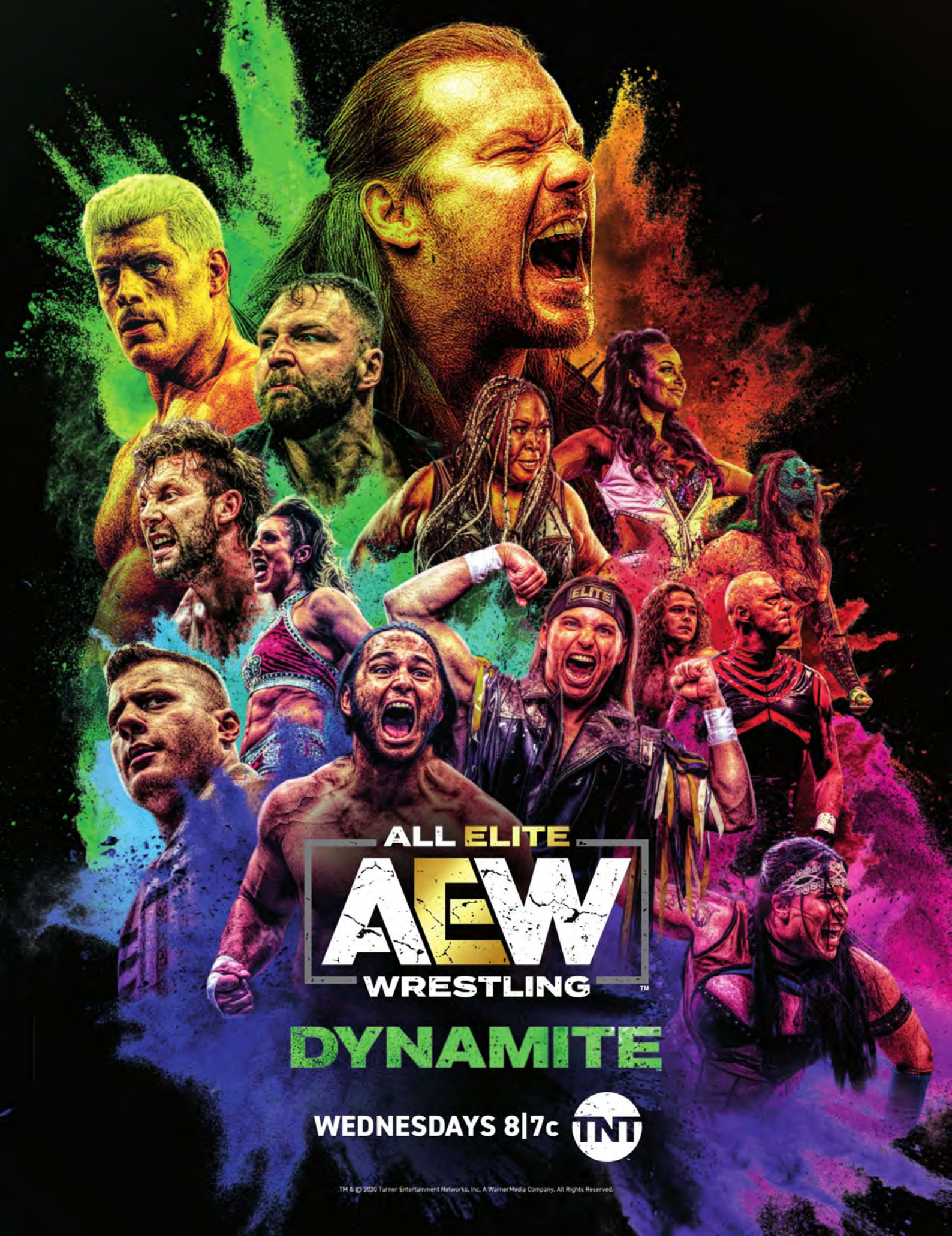


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## Hard Rock Stadium Seating Chart

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- The NFL Guest Code of Conduct was developed for all guests to enjoy the experience responsibly. The code of conduct is intended to address behavior that detracts from the gameday experience. Any guest in violation of these provisions will be subject to ejection without refund, and possible arrest. The National Football League asks guests to assist us in creating an enjoyable and safe environment by refraining from the following:
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  - Failing to follow instructions of law enforcement, guest services, and security personnel
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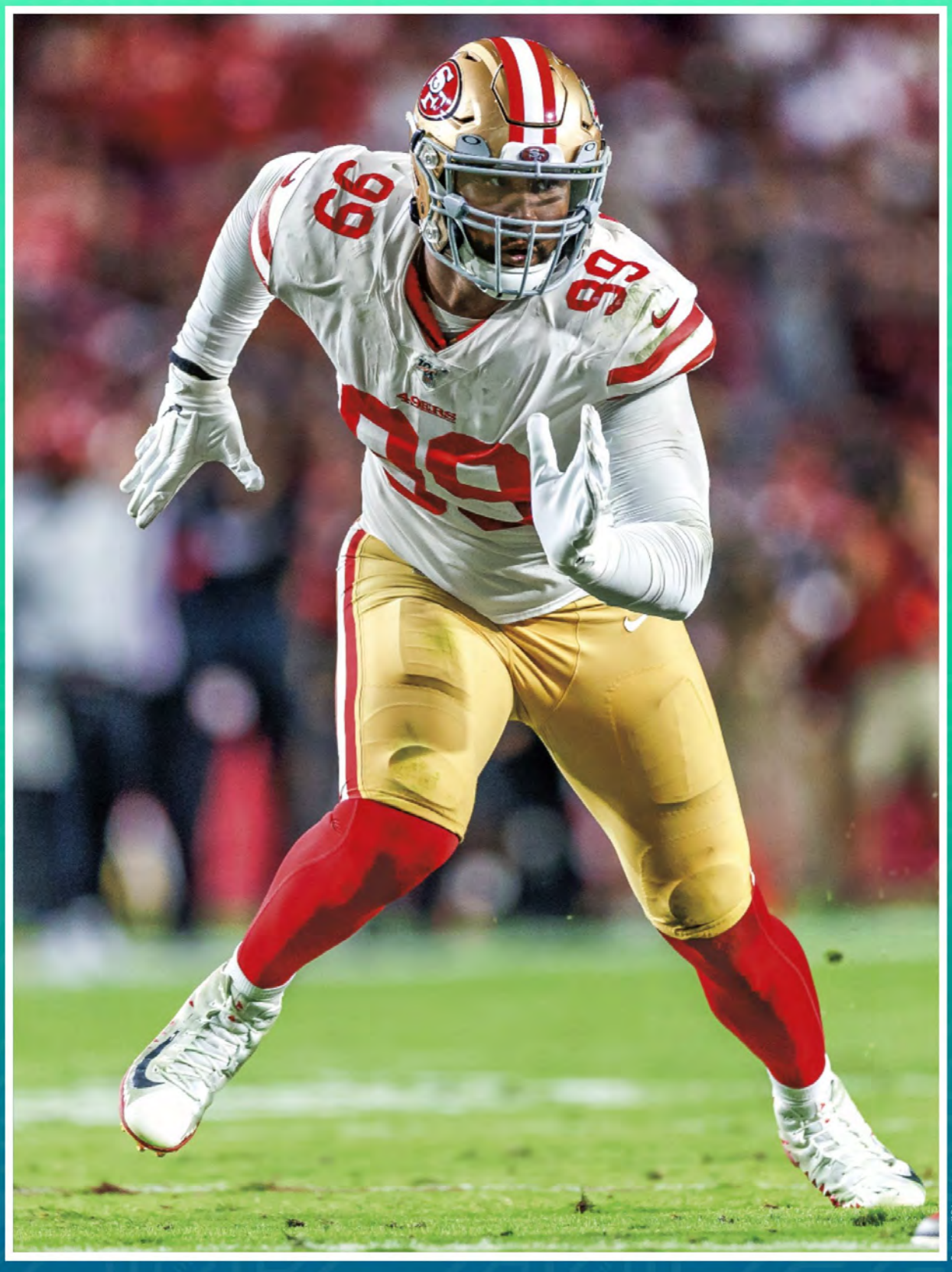

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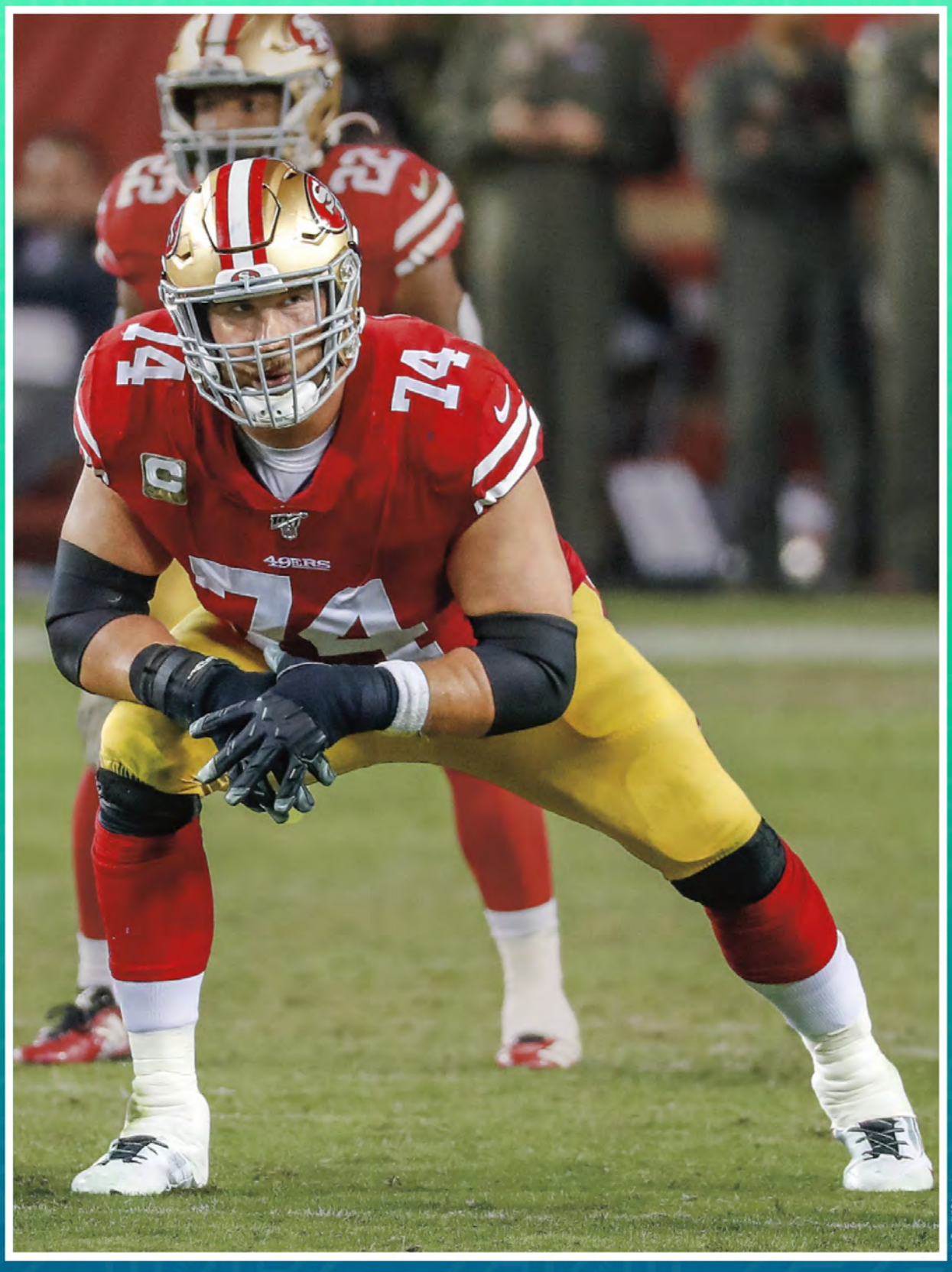

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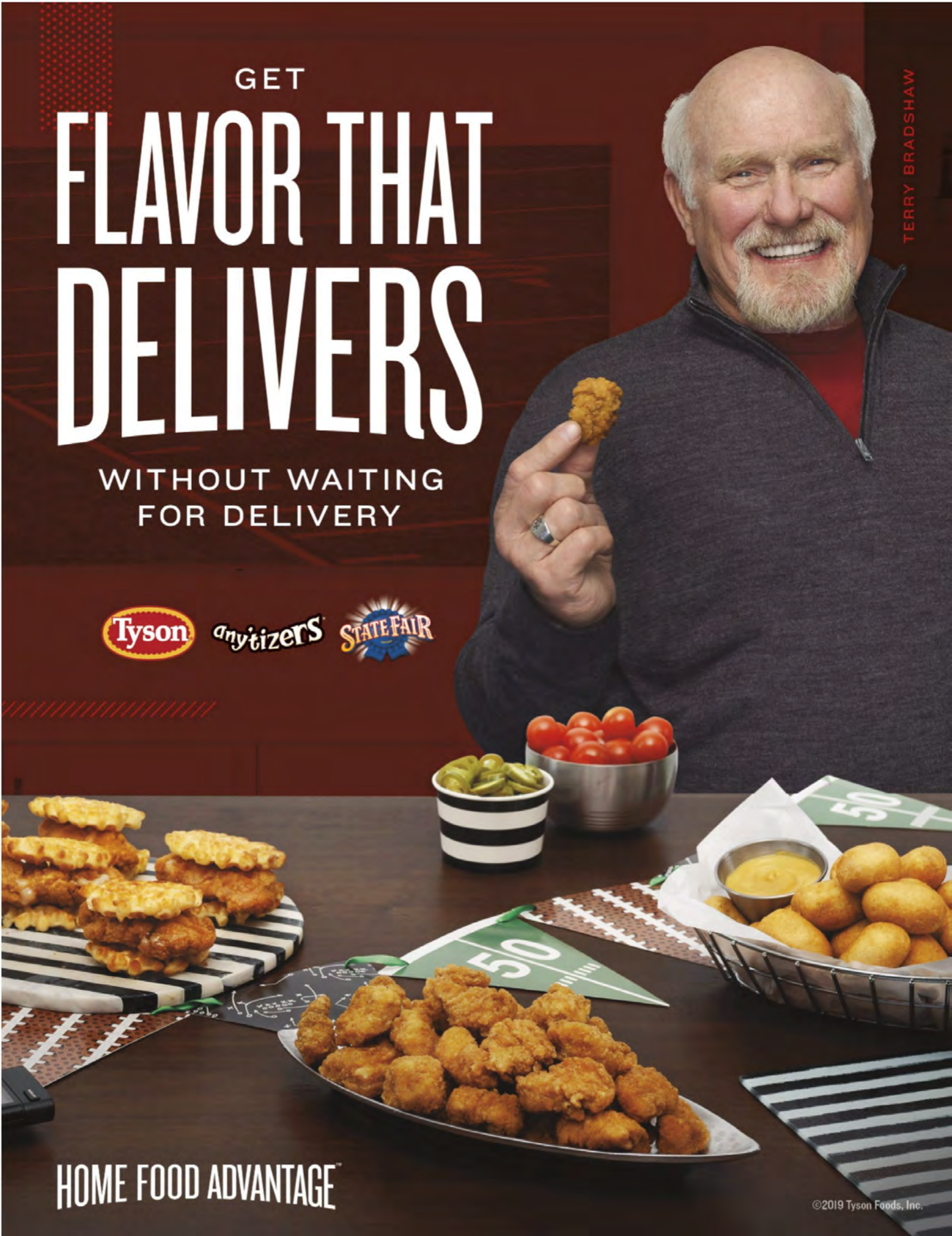
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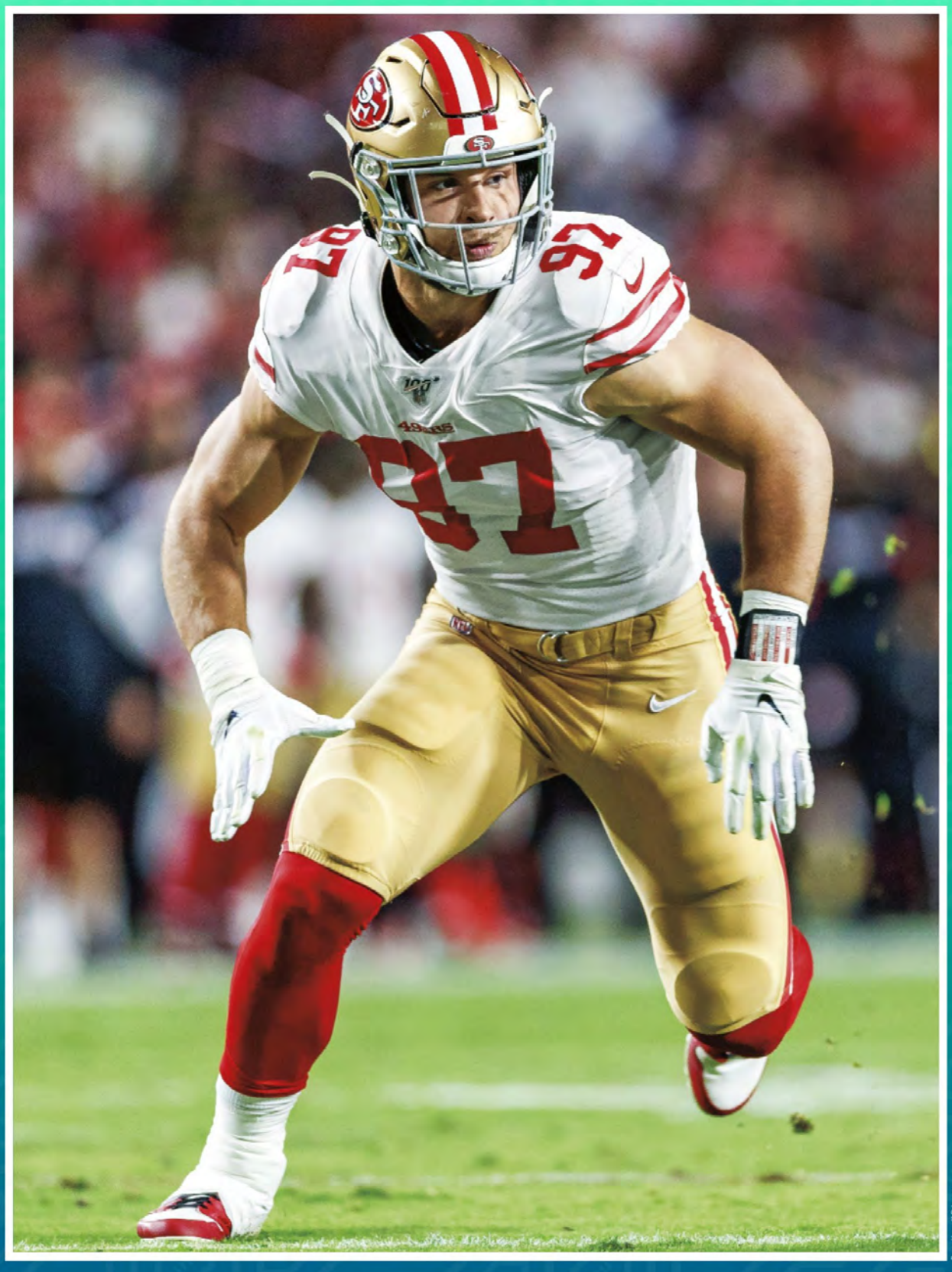

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QBREXZA is a prescription medication used on the skin to treat excessive underarm sweating (primary axillary hyperhidrosis) in people 9 years of age and older.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about QBREXZA?

**Who should not use QBREXZA?**

Do not use QBREXZA if you have certain medical conditions that can be made worse by taking an anticholinergic medicine such as glaucoma, severe ulcerative colitis (UC) or certain other serious bowel problems associated with UC, myasthenia gravis, and Sjogren's syndrome.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before using QBREXZA?**

- **Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions**, including if you have prostate, bladder or kidney problems or problems passing urine; if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed. It is not known if QBREXZA will harm your unborn baby or pass into breastmilk.
- **Tell your healthcare provider and pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including** prescription and over-the-counter medicines and especially any anticholinergic medicines.

**What are the possible side effects of QBREXZA?**
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- **New or worsened urinary retention:** People who use QBREXZA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Urinary retention can result from a blockage in your bladder or a larger than normal prostate. Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following symptoms: difficulty urinating; urinating frequently; urinating in a weak stream or drips; full bladder or difficulty emptying your bladder.
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- **Blurred Vision:** Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider if you develop blurred vision. Do not drive, operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.

**The most common side effects of QBREXZA** in clinical studies were dry mouth; dilation of the pupils; sore throat; skin redness, burning/stinging or itching in underarm area; headache; problems with urination; blurred vision; nasal, throat, eye, and skin dryness; and constipation. These are not all the possible side effects of QBREXZA. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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It is not known if QBREXZA is safe and effective in children under 9 years of age.

**Who should not use QBREXZA?**
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Talk to your healthcare provider if you are not sure if you have a medical condition that can be made worse by taking an anticholinergic medicine.

**Before using QBREXZA, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:**
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- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if QBREXZA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if QBREXZA passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with QBREXZA.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including** prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
QBREXZA may affect the way other medicines work, causing side effects. **Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take anticholinergic medicines.**
Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

**How should I use QBREXZA?**
- Use QBREXZA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to use it.
- QBREXZA comes as a single-use pre-moistened cloth in individual pouches.
- **QBREXZA should be applied to clean, dry, intact skin of your underarm areas only.** Do not apply QBREXZA to broken skin. Do not cover the treated area with a plastic (occlusive) dressing.
- Apply QBREXZA to both underarm areas using 1 cloth **1 time every 24 hours**.

**Applying QBREXZA:**
- Carefully tear open the pouch to avoid tearing the QBREXZA cloth.
- Unfold the QBREXZA cloth and apply QBREXZA by wiping across 1 entire underarm 1 time. Using the same QBREXZA cloth, wipe across the other underarm 1 time.
- Throw away (discard) the used QBREXZA cloth in the trash.
- **Wash your hands right away after you apply QBREXZA and have thrown away the cloth**. It is important that you wash your hands because QBREXZA that is still on your hands can cause you to have blurred vision if you touch your eyes.
- Do not reuse the QBREXZA cloth.

**What should I avoid while using QBREXZA?**
- QBREXZA may cause you to have blurred vision that is temporary. If you develop blurred vision, call your healthcare provider, stop using QBREXZA and do not drive, operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.
- **QBREXZA is flammable**. Avoid heat and flame while applying QBREXZA to your skin.

**What are the possible side effects of QBREXZA?**
**QBREXZA can cause serious side effects, including:**
- **New or worsened urinary retention.** People who use QBREXZA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Urinary retention can be caused by a blockage in your bladder. Urinary retention can also happen in men who have a larger than normal prostate. Symptoms of urinary retention may include:
  - difficulty urinating
  - urinating frequently
  - urination in a weak stream or drips
  - full bladder or difficulty emptying your bladder (distended bladder)

  If you have these symptoms, stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away.
- **Problems with control of your body temperature.** QBREXZA can cause you to have decreased sweating in areas other than the underarm area which could cause you to become overheated and to develop heat illness. When in hot or very warm temperatures, watch for lack of sweating on your body (generalized) and stop using QBREXZA if you develop lack of sweating on your body. Stop using QBREXZA and call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of these symptoms of heat illness:
  - hot, red skin
  - decreased alertness or passing out (unconsciousness)
  - fast, weak pulse
  - fast, shallow breathing
  - increased body temperature (fever)
- **Blurred vision**. If you develop blurred vision during treatment with QBREXZA, call your healthcare provider, stop using QBREXZA and do not drive, or operate machinery, or do hazardous work until your vision is clear.

**The most common side effects of QBREXZA include:**
- dry mouth
- dilation of the pupils of your eyes (mydriasis)
- sore throat
- skin redness, burning/stinging or itching in underarm area
- headache
- problems with urination
- blurred vision
- nasal dryness
- throat, eye, and skin dryness
- constipation

These are not all of the possible side effects of QBREXZA.
Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at **1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch**.

**Keep QBREXZA and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

**General information about the safe and effective use of QBREXZA**
Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use QBREXZA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give QBREXZA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about QBREXZA that is written for health professionals.

Manufactured for: Dermira, Inc. Menlo Park, California 94025
This information is not comprehensive. For more information, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist, and go to www.Qbrexza.com or call 1-877-DERMIRA.

# 49ERS LOOK TO HAVE THE FINISHING TOUCH

## BY CRAIG ELLENPORT

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN MIAMI,** the 49ers won what was then a record fifth Super Bowl. That number has been topped twice since then – by the Steelers and the Patriots, both with six – but as they return to the Magic City for Super Bowl LIV, the 49ers are positioned not only to reign supreme in the NFL's Centennial Season but also draw even with their fellow dynasties.

That fifth title was the last for a legendary group that featured the likes of Joe Montana, Steve Young, Jerry Rice, and Ronnie Lott. The roster that San Francisco brings to this year's Super Bowl is flush with young talent. Just one year removed from a 4-12 record, the 49ers could be poised for another long run of success.

"I'm really impressed with San Francisco, what they've done to turn that team around from last to first," said NFL.com senior analyst and Pro Football Hall of Fame personnel director Gil Brandt. "They've done it with an old style running game that the coach's father brought into the National Football League and is very hard to defend."

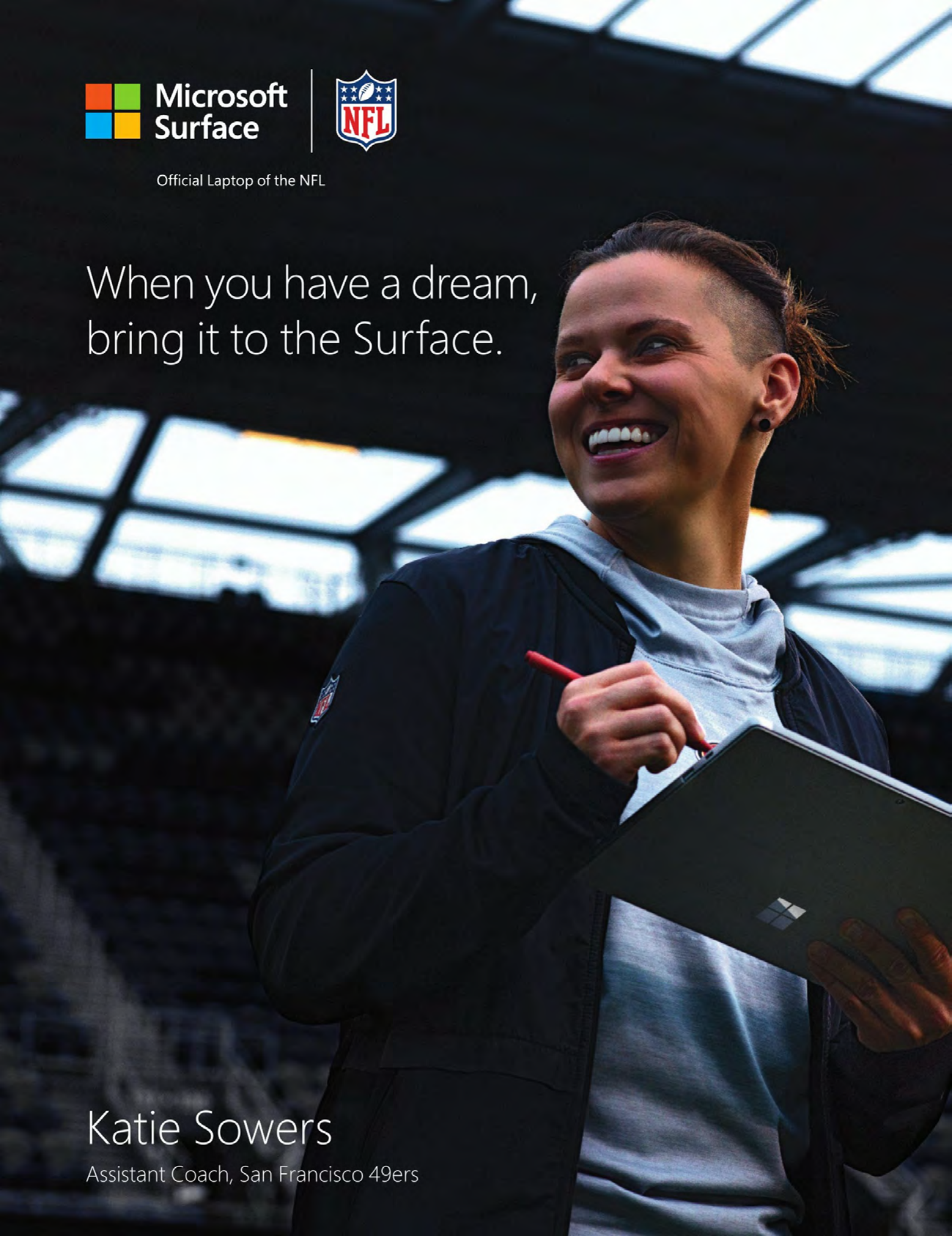
Like his father, the 49ers' Kyle Shanahan has become one of the most successful offensive-minded head coaches in the league. The two may have even more in common after Super Bowl Sunday. Mike Shanahan won a pair of Super Bowl titles at the helm of the Denver Broncos – after being the offensive coordinator for the 49ers when they won Super Bowl XXIX.

**Jimmy Garoppolo** has thrived in a 49ers offense that puts an emphasis on play-action. The team led the NFL in big plays (passes of 20+ yards, runs of 10+ yards).

The 49ers opened 2019 with eight straight wins, but going 5-3 in the season's second half might have been a more impressive feat. They didn't play any games against playoff teams during that hot start; over the final eight weeks, they played five: splitting with Seattle, easily handling Green Bay, losing on a last-second field goal at Baltimore, and, a week later, winning on a last-second field goal at New Orleans.

That gauntlet surely prepared San Francisco's young core for the pressure of playoff football.

Peter Read Miller/AP Images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Katie Sowers
Assistant Coach, San Francisco 49ers

Paul Spinelli/AP Images

Nick Wass/AP Images

**Backfield versatility makes the 49ers** difficult to defend. Fullback Kyle Juszczyk (left) is a stout blocker who helped the team's running game rank second in the NFL and also caught 20 passes out of the backfield. Raheem Mostert (right) led San Francisco's three-headed rushing attack with 772 yards and eight touchdowns.

"Every week has kind of felt like playoffs for us," Shanahan said. "When you work so hard to start out that way, lots of people relax the last couple games because you've done it. It's been neat that we were able to start out the way we did and have a pretty good record all year. But, we've never been able to relax at all."

## OFFENSE

Shanahan was hired by San Francisco after being the coordinator when the Atlanta Falcons broke all sorts of offensive records on their way to Super Bowl LI. His 49ers offense might not be quite as explosive, but they did finish second in the NFL in scoring (29.9 points per game) and fourth in yards (381.1 per game).

It's a deep unit that can do a lot of things well. With Shanahan calling the plays, there is constant motion before almost every snap. When that succeeds in getting defenders out of position, they are hard to stop.

"There's a lot of shifting and motioning," said Vikings defensive coordinator George Edwards, who saw the 49ers up close in the NFC playoffs. "There's a lot of using different guys to do different jobs. Receivers in the backfield running the ball… running the option with the fullback. There's a lot of things they do to try to slow you down as far as your reaction."

If the 49ers' offense is a multi-layered orchestra, they have a worthy conductor in quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. The 29-year-old completed 69 percent of his passes in 2019 for 3,978 yards and 27 touchdowns.

Garoppolo may not have much playoff experience on the field, but he does own a pair of Super Bowl rings courtesy of his time backing up Tom Brady in New England. The 49ers gave up a second-round pick in 2017 to acquire Garoppolo, and it's safe to say that was a bargain.

"He's getting good reads, getting the ball out of his hands," Edwards said. "He's getting it to the playmakers, which they have a lot of on offense. The biggest thing is, you can just tell he has a better feel for what they're trying to do schematically."

Garoppolo is especially productive in play-action. To prove the point, 13 different 49ers caught at least one TD pass this season, tying an NFL record.

The team's leading receiver is George Kittle, who has emerged as perhaps the top tight end in the league. Among his 85 receptions this season, 27 came on third down. He's gained more yards – 2,945 – in his first three seasons than any tight end in NFL history.

The tenacious Emmanuel Sanders was acquired from Denver before the trade deadline,

### 2019 49ERS RESULTS (15-3)

| Date | Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/8 | Tampa Bay | 31-17 | W |
| 9/15 | Cincinnati | 41-17 | W |
| 9/22 | PITTSBURGH | 24-20 | W |
| 10/7 | CLEVELAND | 31-3 | W |
| 10/13 | L.A. Rams | 20-7 | W |
| 10/20 | Washington | 9-0 | W |
| 10/27 | CAROLINA | 51-13 | W |
| 10/31 | Arizona | 28-25 | W |
| 11/11 | SEATTLE | (OT) 24-27 | L |
| 11/17 | ARIZONA | 36-26 | W |
| 11/24 | GREEN BAY | 37-8 | W |
| 12/1 | Baltimore | 17-20 | L |
| 12/8 | New Orleans | 48-46 | W |
| 12/15 | ATLANTA | 22-29 | L |
| 12/21 | L.A. RAMS | 34-31 | W |
| 12/29 | Seattle | 26-21 | W |
| **NFC Playoffs** | | | |
| 1/11 | MINNESOTA | 27-10 | W |
| 1/19 | GREEN BAY | 37-20 | W |

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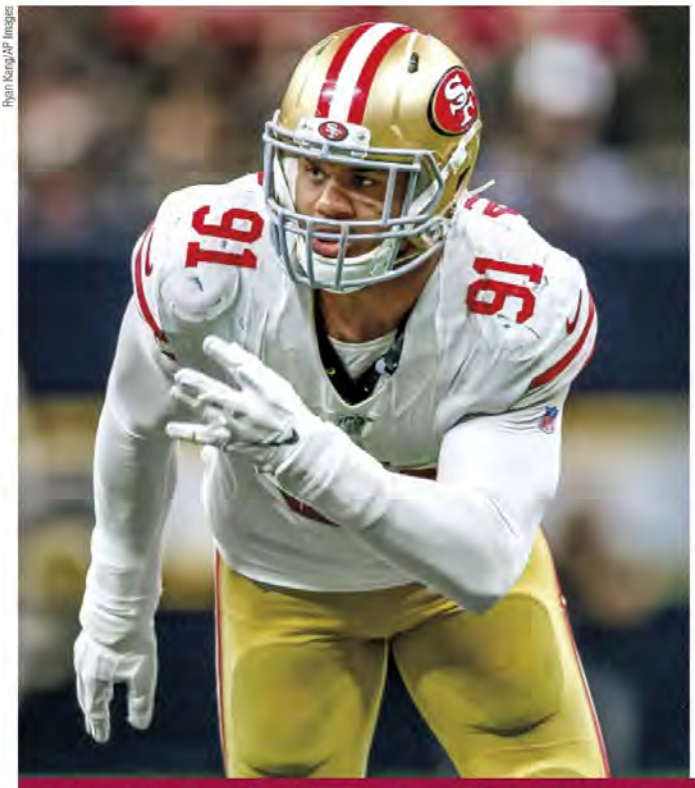


Daniel Gluskoter/AP Images

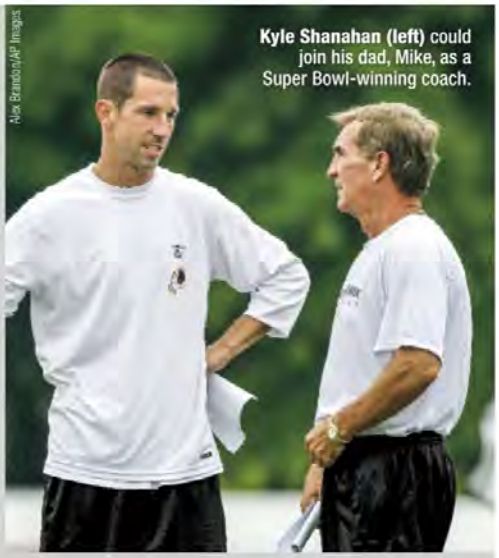
**San Francisco's defense has shown strength** on all three levels. The front four is led by defensive lineman Arik Armstead (left), who had a team-leading 10 sacks and forced two fumbles, while linebacker Fred Warner (right) was in on a team-leading 118 tackles, broke up nine passes, and forced three fumbles.

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS** are a common theme across 100 years of NFL football, but Super Bowl LIV adds a new chapter: Mike and Kyle Shanahan are the first-ever father-son head coaching duo to reach the Super Bowl.

Mike won back-to-back Super Bowls – XXXII and XXXIII – as head coach of the Denver Broncos. And they weren't his only trips to the league's biggest game. He was the Broncos' offensive coordinator when they played in Super Bowl XXII and the 49ers' offensive coordinator when they won Super Bowl XXIX.

Alex Brandon/AP Images



**Kyle Shanahan (left)** could join his dad, Mike, as a Super Bowl-winning coach.

Kyle, meanwhile, has developed his own stellar reputation as a coach. In 2008, at age 29, he became the league's youngest offensive coordinator when he was promoted by the Houston Texans. Two years later, when Mike returned to the head coaching ranks with the Washington Redskins, Kyle joined his father's staff as their offensive coordinator. To this day, they continue to work together with dad taking in 49ers practices and team meetings and offering his perspective.

"My dad and I talk a ton," Kyle told *The Athletic*. "Even before I got into coaching, we talked every day about coaching. It's gotten harder as I've gotten older – I used to call him almost every night. Now, being a coordinator and a head coach, it gets to once or twice a week. But you always have stuff. You leave each other messages. My dad loves football."

and the veteran wideout has formed a solid tandem with rookie Deebo Samuel. In half a season with the 49ers, Sanders caught 36 passes for 502 yards and three TDs. He gives the team a deep threat, while Samuel has been strong going over the middle. The South Carolina product had 57 receptions for 802 yards.

Big plays in the passing game have everything to do with a three-headed running attack that has been hard to stop all season. The trio of Raheem Mostert, Matt Breida, and Tevin Coleman combined for 1,939 rushing yards. Each had more than 500 yards.

"They're interchangeable," Edwards said. "They use them throughout their offense… running the ball, catching screens, going on pass routes, in protection. All three of them are fully capable of making explosive plays."

The 49ers also feature one of the NFL's best fullbacks in Kyle Juszczyk, who adds another dimension to the team's run-blocking. Juszczyk is a perfect complement to an offensive line that is solid on its own.

Starting tackles Joe Staley and Mike McGlinchey both missed time to injury during the season, but are healthy now and form one of the best tackle combinations in the league.

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ALL-TIME PLAYOFF RESULTS

**(33 WINS, 21 LOSSES)**

| Year | Playoffs | Location | Final | W/L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1949 | AAFC Divisional | New York Yankees | 17-7 | W |
| | AAFC Championship | at Cleveland | 7-21 | L |
| 1957 | NFL Divisional | Detroit | 27-31 | L |
| 1970 | NFC Divisional | at Minnesota | 17-14 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Dallas | 10-17 | L |
| 1971 | NFC Divisional | Washington | 24-20 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Dallas | 3-14 | L |
| 1972 | NFC Divisional | Dallas | 28-30 | L |
| 1981 | NFC Divisional | New York Giants | 38-24 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Dallas | 28-27 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XVI** | **Cincinnati** | **26-21** | **W** |
| 1983 | NFC Divisional | Detroit | 24-23 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Washington | 21-24 | L |
| 1984 | NFC Divisional | New York Giants | 21-10 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Chicago | 23-0 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XIX** | **Miami** | **38-16** | **W** |
| 1985 | NFC Wild Card | at New York Giants | 3-17 | L |
| 1986 | NFC Divisional | at New York Giants | 3-49 | L |
| 1987 | NFC Divisional | Minnesota | 24-36 | L |
| 1988 | NFC Divisional | Minnesota | 34-9 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Chicago | 28-3 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XXIII** | **Cincinnati** | **20-16** | **W** |
| 1989 | NFC Divisional | Minnesota | 41-13 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Los Angeles Rams | 30-3 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XXIV** | **Denver** | **55-10** | **W** |
| 1990 | NFC Divisional | Washington | 28-10 | W |
| | NFC Championship | New York Giants | 13-15 | L |
| 1992 | NFC Divisional | Washington | 20-13 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Dallas | 20-30 | L |
| 1993 | NFC Divisional | New York Giants | 44-3 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Dallas | 21-38 | L |
| 1994 | NFC Divisional | Chicago | 44-15 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Dallas | 38-28 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XXIX** | **San Diego Chargers** | **49-26** | **W** |
| 1995 | NFC Divisional | Green Bay | 17-27 | L |
| 1996 | NFC Wild Card | Philadelphia | 14-0 | W |
| | NFC Divisional | at Green Bay | 14-35 | L |
| 1997 | NFC Divisional | Minnesota | 38-22 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Green Bay | 10-23 | L |
| 1998 | NFC Wild Card | Green Bay | 30-27 | W |
| | NFC Divisional | at Atlanta | 18-20 | L |
| 2001 | NFC Wild Card | at Green Bay | 15-25 | L |
| 2002 | NFC Wild Card | New York Giants | 39-38 | W |
| | NFC Divisional | at Tampa Bay | 6-31 | L |
| 2011 | NFC Divisional | New Orleans | 36-32 | W |
| | NFC Championship | New York Giants | 17-20 (OT) | L |
| 2012 | NFC Divisional | Green Bay | 45-31 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Atlanta | 28-24 | W |
| | **Super Bowl XLVII** | **Baltimore** | **31-34** | **L** |
| 2013 | NFC Wild Card | at Green Bay | 23-20 | W |
| | NFC Divisional | at Carolina | 23-10 | W |
| | NFC Championship | at Seattle | 17-23 | L |
| 2019 | NFC Divisional | Minnesota | 27-10 | W |
| | NFC Championship | Green Bay | 37-20 | W |

Center Ben Garland, a starter on Atlanta's Super Bowl team, was a key free-agent pickup during the offseason.

### DEFENSE

While the offense received most of the accolades during the 49ers' dynastic run in the 1980s and early '90s, their defense was quietly very impressive. Yet there's nothing quiet about this year's defense.

San Francisco general manager John Lynch has spent the past three seasons putting together a defense that looks a lot like the one he played on in Tampa Bay: a front four that is tough against the run and puts a ton of pressure on the quarterback, fast linebackers who play the run and pass with equal skill, and a secondary that doesn't allow big plays.

The 49ers ranked second in the league in yards allowed per game (281.8) and eighth in points allowed (19.4). They led the league with 21 forced fumbles.

It all starts up front. The 49ers had the only defensive line in the NFL with four players who each had at least 6.5 sacks. The line was already a position of strength with defensive end Arik Armstead and tackle DeForest Buckner. But then the 49ers became stronger, signing free agent Dee Ford and making Nick Bosa the No. 2 overall pick in the draft. Armstead totaled a team-leading 10.5 sacks and Buckner had 7.5, thanks in no small part to Ford's presence.

"Dee's speed off the edge is one of a kind," Buckner said. "It really opens up more opportunities for the guys inside, also for Nick on the opposite side. Teams can't pick and choose every time where they want to slide the protection or who they want to double."

Bosa finished the year with nine sacks and 16 tackles for loss. A high-energy playmaker, he needs to be accounted for on every down.

"From a technical standpoint, [Bosa's] hand-eye coordination is some of the best I've ever been around," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "His movement skills, his instincts in pass-rush, his feel in pass-rush, is beyond what a rookie feels."

With the front four wreaking havoc, San Francisco's linebackers are free to clean up. Fred Warner led the team with 118 tackles, but he was also active in pass defense.

Linebacker Kwon Alexander was a big free-agent signing for San Francisco. He missed

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the last eight games of the regular season with an injury but came back for the playoffs and adds another wrinkle to a unit that was already stout.

The pass defense is anchored by cornerback Richard Sherman, a team leader who also happens to be one of the few 49ers with Super Bowl experience. San Francisco allowed 169.2 yards through the air per game – best in the NFL in 2019 and the league's lowest figure in 10 years.

Since 2011, Sherman has an NFL-leading 35 interceptions; this season, he topped the 49ers with three. Safeties Jimmie Ward and Jaquiski Tartt are solid against the run and the pass.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The 49ers' kicking game is a story of young and old. Rookie punter Mitch Wishnowsky had a total average of 44.9 yards per punt with a 41.6 net, while kicker Robbie Gould, a 15-year vet, still has the leg to split the uprights from long range. His 70.7 percent success rate on field-goal attempts from 50+ yards ranks fifth all time.

Richie James Jr. is steady returning kicks and punts. The 49ers' average drive this season started at the 32-yard line, second-best in the NFL.

## GAME PLAN

The 49ers are a team that likes to win the old-fashioned way, with a strong running game and sound defense, but Shanahan is almost certain to mix things up early.

San Francisco averaged 6.65 yards on first down – best in the NFL this season – and led the league in big plays (runs of 10 or more yards and passes of 20 or more yards). More than half of those plays came on first down.

And don't be surprised to see the 49ers get creative. Samuel had as many rushing TDs (3) as he did receiving this season. Sanders threw a touchdown pass. If the 49ers get a lead, that's when the running game will take over and the offense will simplify things.

Defensively, because they present so much pressure with their front four, the 49ers allow few big plays. Their third-down defense was tied for second-best in the NFL this season.

All the pieces appear in place for the 49ers to win a sixth Lombardi Trophy – and perhaps more. We're about to find out if another triumphant era is dawning in San Francisco.

***Craig Ellenport** has covered the NFL for 25 years. He is the author of* NFL 100: The Greatest Moments of the NFL's Century *(Triumph).*

# NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

## SAN FRANCISCO 37
## Green Bay 20

**THANKS IN PART TO A RECORD-BREAKING** ground effort from Raheem Mostert, the 49ers are taking flight… all the way to Miami.

The fifth-year back out of Purdue enjoyed a monster first half, rushing for 160 yards and scoring three touchdowns – the first time an NFL player had put up those numbers in a half of a playoff game. He would finish with 220 rushing yards to lead a dominant victory over Green Bay that secured San Francisco's seventh trip to the Super Bowl. With it, the 49ers become just the third team to reach the Super Bowl a year after winning four or fewer games, joining the 1988 Bengals and the 1999 Rams.

Momentum belonged to the hosts from the start. The 49ers drove 89 yards on their second possession and reached the end zone on Mostert's 36-yard burst off left tackle. By the time the half was done, he added TD runs of 9 and 18 yards, and Robbie Gould kicked a pair of field goals, sending San Francisco into the locker room ahead 27-0.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers did his best to mount a comeback, leading a trio of second-half touchdown drives, the last of those ending with an 8-yard throw to Jace Sternberger that cut the deficit to 34-20. Rodgers finished the day with his typically impressive numbers, completing 31 of 39 passes for 326 yards and two TDs.

**LEVI'S STADIUM**
**Santa Clara, Calif.** **Jan. 19, 2020**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green Bay | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 20 |
| San Francisco | 7 | 20 | 7 | 3 | 37 |

**1st Quarter**
SF Mostert 36 run (Gould kick), 9:05

**2nd Quarter**
SF Gould 54 FG, 0:05
SF Mostert 9 run (Gould kick), 5:48
SF Gould 27 FG, 13:03
SF Mostert 18 run (Gould kick), 14:15

**3rd Quarter**
GB Jones 9 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 6:16
SF Mostert 22 run (Gould kick), 10:11

**4th Quarter**
GB Jones 1 run (pass failed), 0:25
GB Sternberger 8 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 6:37
SF Gould 42 FG, 11:29

But there was simply too much Mostert, who would score his fourth TD on a 22-yard run around the left side as he became just the third player in NFL history with four rushing touchdowns in a playoff game. His yardage total ranks second in the postseason, only behind Eric Dickerson's 248 for the Colts in Jan. 1986.

Defensively, the 49ers disrupted Green Bay throughout the game. Jaquiski Tartt had a team-high eight tackles and K'Waun Williams added seven. Arik Armstead, Nick Bosa, and Williams each contributed sacks, and Emmanuel Moseley had an interception that led to one of Mostert's first-half touchdowns. Richard Sherman then sealed the outcome with his fourth career playoff interception just after the two-minute warning.

## DENISE DeBARTOLO YORK AND JOHN YORK CO-CHAIRMEN

**DENISE AND JOHN YORK** bring long and distinguished careers in sports and business to their roles as Co-Chairs of the San Francisco 49ers, where they combine their passion for building a championship team with their commitment to being the best possible business partners and community citizens.

Since Denise's father, Edward J. DeBartolo Sr., purchased the 49ers in 1977, she has been an integral part of four decades of 49ers football, including 46 playoff contests and five Super Bowl victories. Earlier in her career, Denise served as President of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins. Under her leadership, the Penguins were revitalized and transformed into a championship team, winning the organization's first Stanley Cup in 1991.

A successful entrepreneur, John spent years as Senior Vice President/Director of Racing Operations for the DeBartolo Corporation, instituting programs designed to enhance the fan experience and raise the profile of thoroughbred horse racing. John, a noted pathologist, began his business career in 1982 as Founder of DeYor Laboratories in Youngstown, Ohio. From three employees, he molded the company into a 500-person operation with facilities in three states before selling the company to Corning, Inc., in 1993.

Denise and John's dedication to the sport of football extends to the top levels of the NFL. Denise is an active member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Committee, helping to oversee the league's ongoing support of the museum that pays tribute to the triumphs of professional football's greatest stars. John is chairman of the NFL's Health & Safety Advisory Committee, which was established in 2011. He also is a member of both the Audit and International committees, the latter of which he previously served as chairman. Under his leadership, the 49ers played in the first regular-season game outside of the United States, taking on the Arizona Cardinals at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City in 2005.

Under the leadership of Denise and John, the 49ers' community outreach efforts and the 49ers Foundation are recognized among the most impactful in all of professional sports. The 49ers were named the 2017 ESPN Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year and the 2017 Pop Warner Little Scholars Team of the Year. The 49ers and the 49ers Foundation were previously recognized as Beyond Sport's 2015 Sport Team of the Year for Outstanding Philanthropic Sports Organization and the 2013 winner of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Steve Patterson Award for Sports Philanthropy.

Above all else, Denise and John first define themselves as husband, wife, and parents. Their eldest son, Jed, now carries on the family's legacy – begun by his grandfather Edward J. DeBartolo Sr., his Uncle Eddie DeBartolo Jr., and his parents – by serving as CEO of the 49ers. Their twin daughters, Jenna and Mara, have worked in the Napa Valley wine industry for several years and are active participants with the 49ers Foundation and community relations efforts. Their son, Tony, was an entrepreneur whose true passion lied in philanthropy, which led him to support a number of non-profit efforts and work closely with incarcerated youth. Denise and John, have two grandchildren, Jaxon and Brixton, the sons of Jed and his wife, Danielle.

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TEAM OFFICIALS

**DENISE DeBARTOLO YORK**
Co-Chairman

**JOHN YORK**
Co-Chairman

**JED YORK**
Chief Executive Officer

**JOHN M. SOBRATO**
Co-Owner

**MARK WAN**
Co-Owner

**GIDEON YU**
Co-Owner

**JOHN LYNCH**
General Manager

**PARAAG MARATHE**
President of 49ers Enterprises & Executive Vice President of Football Operations

**AL GUIDO**
President

**ALEX CHANG**
Chief Marketing Officer

**HANNAH GORDON**
Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel

**BRANO PERKOVICH**
Chief Investment Officer

**SCOTT SABATINO**
Chief Financial Officer

**BRENT SCHOEB**
Chief Revenue Officer

**PATTY INGLIS**
Executive Vice President

**JIM MERCURIO**
Executive Vice President, Stadium Operations & General Manager

**ROBERT ALBERINO JR.**
Vice President/ Executive Producer

**HARPREET BASRAN**
Vice President of Human Resources

**JIHAD BEAUCHMAN**
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel

**RUSS BUTLER**
Vice President of Security

**RAHUL CHANDHOK**
Vice President of Public Affairs & Strategic Communications

**ESTHER CHI**
Vice President, Controller

**PATRICIA ERNSTROM**
Vice President, Levi's Stadium Events

**JEFF FONG**
Vice President, Finance

**KEVIN HILTON**
Vice President, Corporate Partnerships

**MOON JAVAID**
Vice President of Strategy & Analytics

**SEAN KUNDU**
Legal Counsel, 49ers Enterprises/Investments

**BOB LANGE**
Vice President of Communications

**JENNI LUKE**
Vice President of Community Impact

**MARTIN MAYHEW**
Vice President of Player Personnel

**ADAM PETERS**
Vice President of Player Personnel

**JEFF RODRIGUEZ**
Vice President, Corporate Security

**KEENA TURNER**
Vice President and Senior Advisor to the General Manager

**KWESI ADOFO-MENSAH**
Director of Football R&D

**MICHAEL BRACKEN**
Director of Video Operations

**JAY BRUNETTI**
Equipment Manager

**RAN CARTHON**
Director of Pro Personnel

**MATTHEW GREINER**
Senior Manager & Head Groundskeeper

**PATRICK HAGEDORN**
Assistant to the Coaching Staff

**BRIAN HAMPTON**
Director of Football Admin. & Analytics

**NICK KRAY**
Administrative Assistant to the Head Coach

**DUSTIN LITTLE**
Head Athletic Trainer

**JORDAN MAZUR**
Coordinator of Nutrition

**AUSTIN MOSS II**
Director of Player Engagement

**TIM McADAMS, M.D.**
Medical Director/ Orthopaedic Surgeon

**GUY McINTYRE**
Director, Alumni Relations

**DUSTIN PERRY**
Head Strength & Conditioning

**BEN PETERSON**
Head of Player Health & Performance

**STEVE RISSER**
Director of Team Logistics

**ANTHONY SAGLIMBENI**
Primary Care

**ETHAN WAUGH**
Director of College Scouting

**ELLIOTT WILLIAMS**
Director of Functional Performance

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## KYLE SHANAHAN Head Coach

**KYLE SHANAHAN** was named the 20th head coach of the San Francisco 49ers on Feb. 6, 2017, after two seasons as the Atlanta Falcons' offensive coordinator and 15 seasons overall in the league.

This season, the 49ers went 13-3, won their first NFC West title since 2012, and earned the NFC's No. 1 seed. They did so by dominating on both sides of the ball: San Francisco's offense ranked fourth in the league in yards per game (381.1), while its defense was second (281.8).

Shanahan spent nine seasons as an NFL offensive coordinator, starting with the Houston Texans (2008-09) and then going to the Washington Redskins (2010-13), Cleveland Browns (2014), and the Falcons (2015-16). In six of those seasons, he directed an offense that ranked among the NFL's top 10 in total yards. Shanahan entered the league in 2004 as an offensive quality control coach with Tampa Bay.

Following the 2016 season, during which he helped the Falcons reach Super Bowl LI, Shanahan was named AP Assistant Coach of the Year, Coordinator of the Year by *Sporting News*, and Assistant Coach of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America.

Born Dec. 14, 1979, in Minneapolis, Minn., Shanahan began his collegiate career as a wide receiver at Duke before transferring to the University of Texas and graduating in 2003. He and his wife, Mandy, have three children: Stella, Carter, and Lexi.

## ASSISTANT COACHES

**MILES AUSTIN**..... Offensive Quality Control
**JOHN BENTON**..... Offensive Line
**DANIEL BULLOCKS**..... Safeties
**MICHAEL CLAY**..... Assistant Special Teams
**SHANE DAY**..... Quarterbacks
**JON EMBREE**..... Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends
**TAYLOR EMBREE**..... Offensive Quality Control
**BRIAN FLEURY**..... Defensive Quality Control
**RICHARD HIGHTOWER**..... Special Teams Coordinator
**JOHNNY HOLLAND**..... Run Game Specialist/Outside Linebackers
**CHRIS KIFFIN**..... Pass Rush Specialist
**KRIS KOCUREK**..... Defensive Line
**STAN KWAN**..... Assistant Special Teams
**MIKE LaFLEUR**..... Passing Game Coordinator
**MIKE McDANIEL**..... Run Game Coordinator
**DeMECO RYANS**..... Inside Linebackers
**ROBERT SALEH**..... Defensive Coordinator
**BOBBY SLOWIK**..... Offensive Assistant
**KATIE SOWERS**..... Offensive Assistant
**ROBERT TURNER JR.**..... Running Backs
**WES WELKER**..... Wide Receivers
**JOE WOODS**..... Def. Backs/Passing Game Coordinator
**ZACH YENSER**..... Assistant Offensive Line

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

| NO | PLAYER | POS | HT | WT | BIRTH DATE | NFL EXP | COLLEGE | HOW ACQUIRED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | **Al-Shaair**, Azeez | LB | 6-2 | 228 | 8/4/97 | R | Florida Atlantic | FA '19 |
| 56 | **Alexander**, Kwon | LB | 6-1 | 227 | 8/3/94 | 5 | Louisiana State | FA '19 |
| 91 | **Armstead**, Arik | DL | 6-7 | 290 | 11/15/93 | 5 | Oregon | D1 '15 |
| 3 | **Beathard**, C.J. | QB | 6-2 | 215 | 11/16/93 | 3 | Iowa | D3b '17 |
| 97 | **Bosa**, Nick | DL | 6-4 | 266 | 10/23/97 | R | Ohio State | D1 '19 |
| 84 | **Bourne**, Kendrick | WR | 6-1 | 190 | 8/4/95 | 3 | Eastern Washington | FA '17 |
| 22 | **Breida**, Matt | RB | 5-11 | 195 | 2/28/95 | 3 | Georgia Southern | FA '17 |
| 60 | **Brunskill**, Daniel | OL | 6-5 | 300 | 1/27/94 | 1 | San Diego State | FA '19 |
| 99 | **Buckner**, DeForest | DL | 6-7 | 295 | 3/17/94 | 4 | Oregon | D1a '16 |
| 26 | **Coleman**, Tevin | RB | 6-1 | 210 | 4/16/93 | 5 | Indiana | FA '19 |
| 96 | **Day**, Sheldon | DL | 6-1 | 285 | 7/1/94 | 4 | Notre Dame | W '(JAX) 17 |
| 82 | **Dwelley**, Ross | TE | 6-5 | 235 | 1/26/95 | 2 | San Diego | FA '18 |
| 55 | **Ford**, Dee | DL | 6-2 | 252 | 3/19/91 | 6 | Auburn | T (KC) '19 |
| 63 | **Garland**, Ben | OL | 6-5 | 304 | 4/6/88 | 6 | Air Force | FA '19 |
| 10 | **Garoppolo**, Jimmy | QB | 6-2 | 225 | 11/2/91 | 6 | Eastern Illinois | T (NE) '17 |
| 90 | **Givens**, Kevin | DL | 6-1 | 285 | 3/1/97 | R | Penn State | FA '19 |
| 9 | **Gould**, Robbie | K | 6-0 | 190 | 12/6/82 | 15 | Penn State | FA '17 |
| 57 | **Greenlaw**, Dre | LB | 6-0 | 230 | 5/25/97 | R | Arkansas | D5 '19 |
| 36 | **Harris**, Marcell | S | 6-0 | 215 | 6/9/94 | 2 | Florida | D6 '18 |
| 43 | **Helm**, Daniel | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 4/20/95 | R | Duke | W (LAC) '19 |
| 13 | **James**, Richie Jr. | WR | 5-9 | 185 | 9/5/95 | 2 | Middle Tennessee St. | D7b '18 |
| 35 | **Johnson**, Dontae | CB | 6-2 | 200 | 12/1/91 | 6 | North Carolina State | FA '19 |
| 44 | **Juszczyk**, Kyle | FB | 6-1 | 235 | 4/23/91 | 7 | Harvard | FA '17 |
| 85 | **Kittle**, George | TE | 6-4 | 250 | 10/9/93 | 3 | Iowa | D5a '17 |
| 47 | **Lee**, Elijah | LB | 6-2 | 230 | 2/8/96 | 3 | Kansas State | FA '17 |
| 81 | **Matthews**, Jordan | WR | 6-3 | 215 | 7/16/92 | 6 | Vanderbilt | FA '19 |
| 69 | **McGlinchey**, Mike | T | 6-8 | 310 | 1/12/95 | 2 | Notre Dame | D1 '18 |
| 93 | **Mitchell**, Earl | NT | 6-3 | 310 | 9/25/87 | 10 | Arizona | FA '17 |
| 33 | **Moore**, Tarvarius | DB | 6-2 | 200 | 8/16/96 | 2 | Southern Mississippi | D3b '18 |
| 41 | **Moseley**, Emmanuel | CB | 5-11 | 190 | 3/25/96 | 2 | Tennessee | FA '18 |
| 31 | **Mostert**, Raheem | RB | 5-10 | 205 | 4/9/92 | 5 | Purdue | FA '16 |
| 4 | **Mullens**, Nick | QB | 6-1 | 210 | 3/21/95 | 2 | Southern Mississippi | FA '17 |
| 86 | **Nelson**, Kyle | LS | 6-2 | 240 | 10/3/86 | 8 | New Mexico State | FA '14 |
| 53 | **Nzeocha**, Mark | LB | 6-3 | 235 | 1/19/90 | 5 | Wyoming | FA '17 |
| 68 | **Person**, Mike | OL | 6-4 | 305 | 5/17/88 | 9 | Montana State | FA '18 |
| 18 | **Pettis**, Dante | WR | 6-1 | 195 | 10/23/95 | 2 | Washington | D2 '18 |
| 32 | **Reed**, D.J. Jr. | DB | 5-9 | 193 | 11/11/96 | 2 | Kansas State | D5 '18 |
| 19 | **Samuel**, Deebo | WR | 6-0 | 215 | 1/15/96 | R | South Carolina | D2 '19 |
| 17 | **Sanders**, Emmanuel | WR | 5-11 | 180 | 3/17/87 | 10 | Southern Methodist | T (DEN) '19 |
| 25 | **Sherman**, Richard | CB | 6-3 | 205 | 3/30/88 | 9 | Stanford | FA '18 |
| 67 | **Skule**, Justin | OL | 6-6 | 315 | 11/23/96 | R | Vanderbilt | D6b '19 |
| 74 | **Staley**, Joe | T | 6-5 | 300 | 8/30/84 | 13 | Central Michigan | D1B '07 |
| 29 | **Tartt**, Jaquiski | S | 6-1 | 215 | 2/18/92 | 5 | Samford | D2 '15 |
| 94 | **Thomas**, Solomon | DL | 6-3 | 280 | 8/26/95 | 3 | Stanford | D1a '17 |
| 83 | **Toilolo**, Levine | TE | 6-8 | 268 | 7/30/91 | 7 | Stanford | FA '19 |
| 75 | **Tomlinson**, Laken | OL | 6-3 | 315 | 2/9/92 | 5 | Duke | T (DET) '17 |
| 20 | **Ward**, Jimmie | DB | 5-11 | 195 | 7/18/91 | 6 | Northern Illinois | D1 '14 |
| 54 | **Warner**, Fred | LB | 6-3 | 230 | 11/19/96 | 2 | Brigham Young | D3a '18 |
| 24 | **Williams**, K'Waun | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 7/12/91 | 5 | Pittsburgh | FA '17 |
| 30 | **Wilson**, Jeff Jr. | RB | 6-0 | 213 | 11/16/95 | 2 | North Texas | FA '18 |
| 6 | **Wishnowsky**, Mitch | P | 6-2 | 220 | 3/3/92 | R | Utah | D4 '19 |
| 23 | **Witherspoon**, Ahkello | CB | 6-3 | 195 | 3/21/95 | 3 | Colorado | D3a '17 |
| 92 | **Zettel**, Anthony | DL | 6-4 | 275 | 8/9/92 | 4 | Penn State | FA '19 |

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# NFC CHAMPIONS
# SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

**Azeez Al-Shaair (51)**
Linebacker

**Kwon Alexander (56)**
Linebacker

**Arik Armstead (91)**
Defensive Lineman

**C.J. Beathard (3)**
Quarterback

**Nick Bosa (97)**
Defensive Lineman

**Kendrick Bourne (84)**
Wide Receiver

**Matt Breida (22)**
Running Back

**Daniel Brunskill (60)**
Offensive Lineman

**DeForest Buckner (99)**
Defensive Lineman

**Tevin Coleman (26)**
Running Back

**Sheldon Day (96)**
Defensive Lineman

**Ross Dwelley (82)**
Tight End

**Dee Ford (55)**
Defensive Lineman

**Ben Garland (63)**
Offensive Lineman

**Jimmy Garoppolo (10)**
Quarterback

**Kevin Givens (90)**
Defensive Lineman

**Robbie Gould (9)**
Kicker

**Dre Greenlaw (57)**
Linebacker

**Marcell Harris (36)**
Safety

**Daniel Helm (43)**
Tight End

**Richie James Jr. (13)**
Wide Receiver

**Dontae Johnson (35)**
Cornerback

**Kyle Juszczyk (44)**
Fullback

**George Kittle (85)**
Tight End

**Elijah Lee (47)**
Linebacker

**Jordan Matthews (81)**
Wide Receiver

**Mike McGlinchey (69)**
Tackle

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# NFC CHAMPIONS

**Earl Mitchell (93)**
Nose Tackle

**Tarvarius Moore (33)**
Defensive Back

**Emmanuel Moseley (41)**
Cornerback

**Raheem Mostert (31)**
Running Back

**Nick Mullens (4)**
Quarterback

**Kyle Nelson (86)**
Long Snapper

**Mark Nzeocha (53)**
Linebacker

**Mike Person (68)**
Offensive Lineman

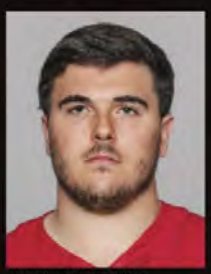
**Dante Pettis (18)**
Wide Receiver

**D.J. Reed Jr. (32)**
Defensive Back

**Deebo Samuel (19)**
Wide Receiver

**Emmanuel Sanders (17)**
Wide Receiver

**Richard Sherman (25)**
Cornerback



**Justin Skule (67)**
Offensive Lineman

**Joe Staley (74)**
Tackle

**Jaquiski Tartt (29)**
Safety

**Solomon Thomas (94)**
Defensive Lineman

**Levine Toilolo (83)**
Tight End

**Laken Tomlinson (75)**
Offensive Lineman

**Jimmie Ward (20)**
Defensive Back

**Fred Warner (54)**
Linebacker

**K'Waun Williams (24)**
Cornerback

**Jeff Wilson Jr. (30)**
Running Back

**Mitch Wishnowsky (6)**
Punter

**Ahkello Witherspoon (23)**
Cornerback

**Anthony Zettel (92)**
Defensive Lineman

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# SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
## STATS/ROSTER/LINEUPS

### STATISTICAL LEADERS

| PASSING | COMP-ATT | PCT | YDS | TD | INT | RTNG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JIMMY **GAROPPOLO** | 329-476 | 69.1 | 3978 | 27 | 13 | 102.0 |

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RAHEEM **MOSTERT** | 137 | 772 | 5.6 | 41t | 8 |
| MATT **BREIDA** | 123 | 623 | 5.1 | 83t | 1 |
| TEVIN **COLEMAN** | 137 | 544 | 4.0 | 48t | 6 |

| RECEIVING | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEORGE **KITTLE** | 85 | 1053 | 12.4 | 61t | 5 |
| DEEBO **SAMUEL** | 57 | 802 | 14.1 | 42t | 3 |
| EMMANUEL **SANDERS** | 36 | 502 | 13.9 | 75t | 3 |
| KENDRICK **BOURNE** | 30 | 358 | 11.9 | 30 | 5 |
| TEVIN **COLEMAN** | 21 | 180 | 8.6 | 37 | 1 |
| KYLE **JUSZCZYK** | 20 | 239 | 12.0 | 49 | 1 |

| DEFENSE | TACKLES | ASSISTS | TOTAL | SACKS | PD | FF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FRED **WARNER** | 89 | 29 | 118 | 3.0 | 9 | 3 |
| DRE **GREENLAW** | 62 | 25 | 87 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |
| DEFOREST **BUCKNER** | 33 | 28 | 61 | 7.5 | 2 | 2 |
| RICHARD **SHERMAN** | 48 | 13 | 61 | 0.0 | 11 | 0 |
| JIMMIE **WARD** | 46 | 14 | 60 | 1.0 | 8 | 0 |
| ARIK **ARMSTEAD** | 32 | 22 | 54 | 10.0 | 2 | 2 |
| K'WAUN **WILLIAMS** | 35 | 16 | 51 | 1.0 | 2 | 4 |
| NICK **BOSA** | 32 | 15 | 47 | 9.0 | 2 | 1 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RICHARD **SHERMAN** | 3 | 65 | 21.7 | 31t | 1 |
| K'WAUN **WILLIAMS** | 2 | 53 | 26.5 | 49 | 0 |

| KICK RETURNS | RET | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RICHIE **JAMES JR.** | 20 | 428 | 21.4 | 81 | 0 |

| PUNT RETURNS | RET | FC | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RICHIE **JAMES JR.** | 33 | 11 | 8.0 | 32 | 0 |

| PUNTING | NO | AVG | NET | TCHBK | IN/20 | LONG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MITCH **WISHNOWSKY** | 52 | 44.9 | 41.6 | 2 | 23 | 65 |

| FIELD GOALS | TOTAL | 1-19 | 20-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ROBBIE **GOULD** | 23/31 | 0/0 | 9/9 | 8/10 | 6/8 | 0/4 |

### OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WR | 19 | **DEEBO SAMUEL** |
| | 84 | KENDRICK BOURNE |
| LT | 74 | **JOE STALEY** |
| | 67 | JUSTIN SKULE |
| LG | 75 | **LAKEN TOMLINSON** |
| | 60 | DANIEL BRUNSKILL |
| C | 63 | **BEN GARLAND** |
| RG | 68 | **MIKE PERSON** |
| RT | 69 | **MIKE McGLINCHEY** |
| TE | 85 | **GEORGE KITTLE** |
| | 82 | ROSS DWELLEY |
| WR | 17 | **EMMANUEL SANDERS** |
| | 13 | RICHIE JAMES JR. |
| QB | 10 | **JIMMY GAROPPOLO** |
| | 4 | NICK MULLENS |
| RB | 26 | **TEVIN COLEMAN** |
| | 31 | RAHEEM MOSTERT |
| | 22 | MATT BREIDA |
| FB | 44 | **KYLE JUSZCZYK** |

### DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 55 | **DEE FORD** |
| | 97 | NICK BOSA |
| LDT | 96 | **SHELDON DAY** |
| | 94 | SOLOMON THOMAS |
| RDT | 99 | **DEFOREST BUCKNER** |
| | 90 | KEVIN GIVENS |
| RDE | 91 | **ARIK ARMSTEAD** |
| SAM | 56 | **KWON ALEXANDER** |
| | 53 | MARK NZEOCHA |
| MIKE | 54 | **FRED WARNER** |
| | 51 | AZEEZ AL-SHAAIR |
| WILL | 57 | **DRE GREENLAW** |
| | 47 | ELIJAH LEE |
| LCB | 25 | **RICHARD SHERMAN** |
| | 35 | DONTAE JOHNSON |
| RCB | 41 | **EMMANUEL MOSELEY** |
| | 23 | AHKELLO WITHERSPOON |
| NB | 24 | **K'WAUN WILLIAMS** |
| FS | 20 | **JIMMIE WARD** |
| | 33 | TARVARIUS MOORE |
| SS | 29 | **JAQUISKI TARTT** |
| | 36 | MARCELL HARRIS |

### SPECIALISTS DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P | 6 | **MITCH WISHNOWSKY** |
| K | 9 | **ROBBIE GOULD** |
| H | 6 | **MITCH WISHNOWSKY** |
| PR | 13 | **RICHIE JAMES JR.** |
| | 18 | DANTE PETTIS |
| KR | 13 | **RICHIE JAMES JR.** |
| | 32 | D.J. REED JR. |
| LS | 86 | **KYLE NELSON** |

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | C.J. **BEATHARD** | QB |
| 4 | NICK **MULLENS** | QB |
| 6 | MITCH **WISHNOWSKY** | P |
| 9 | ROBBIE **GOULD** | K |
| 10 | JIMMY **GAROPPOLO** | QB |
| 13 | RICHIE **JAMES JR.** | WR |
| 17 | EMMANUEL **SANDERS** | WR |
| 18 | DANTE **PETTIS** | WR |
| 19 | DEEBO **SAMUEL** | WR |
| 20 | JIMMIE **WARD** | DB |
| 22 | MATT **BREIDA** | RB |
| 23 | AHKELLO **WITHERSPOON** | CB |
| 24 | K'WAUN **WILLIAMS** | CB |
| 25 | RICHARD **SHERMAN** | CB |
| 26 | TEVIN **COLEMAN** | RB |
| 29 | JAQUISKI **TARTT** | S |
| 30 | JEFF **WILSON JR.** | RB |
| 31 | RAHEEM **MOSTERT** | RB |
| 32 | D.J. **REED JR.** | DB |
| 33 | TARVARIUS **MOORE** | DB |
| 35 | DONTAE **JOHNSON** | CB |
| 36 | MARCELL **HARRIS** | S |
| 41 | EMMANUEL **MOSELEY** | CB |
| 43 | DANIEL **HELM** | TE |
| 44 | KYLE **JUSZCZYK** | FB |
| 47 | ELIJAH **LEE** | LB |
| 51 | AZEEZ **AL-SHAAIR** | LB |
| 53 | MARK **NZEOCHA** | LB |
| 54 | FRED **WARNER** | LB |
| 55 | DEE **FORD** | DL |
| 56 | KWON **ALEXANDER** | LB |
| 57 | DRE **GREENLAW** | LB |
| 60 | DANIEL **BRUNSKILL** | OL |
| 63 | BEN **GARLAND** | OL |
| 67 | JUSTIN **SKULE** | OL |
| 68 | MIKE **PERSON** | OL |
| 69 | MIKE **McGLINCHEY** | T |
| 74 | JOE **STALEY** | T |
| 75 | LAKEN **TOMLINSON** | OL |
| 81 | JORDAN **MATTHEWS** | WR |
| 82 | ROSS **DWELLEY** | TE |
| 83 | LEVINE **TOILOLO** | TE |
| 84 | KENDRICK **BOURNE** | WR |
| 85 | GEORGE **KITTLE** | TE |
| 86 | KYLE **NELSON** | LS |
| 90 | KEVIN **GIVENS** | DL |
| 91 | ARIK **ARMSTEAD** | DL |
| 92 | ANTHONY **ZETTEL** | DL |
| 93 | EARL **MITCHELL** | NT |
| 94 | SOLOMON **THOMAS** | DL |
| 96 | SHELDON **DAY** | DL |
| 97 | NICK **BOSA** | DL |
| 99 | DEFOREST **BUCKNER** | DL |

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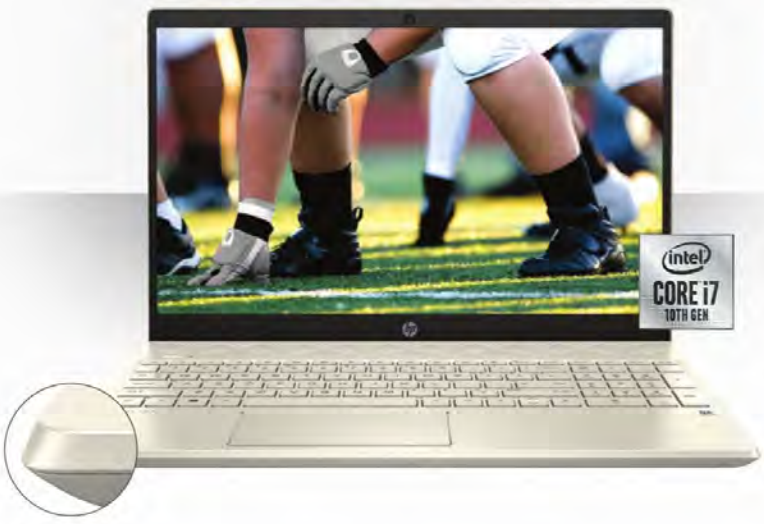


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# KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

## STATS/ROSTER/LINEUPS

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | DUSTIN **COLQUITT** | P |
| 4 | CHAD **HENNE** | QB |
| 7 | HARRISON **BUTKER** | K |
| 8 | MATT **MOORE** | QB |
| 10 | TYREEK **HILL** | WR |
| 11 | DEMARCUS **ROBINSON** | WR |
| 13 | BYRON **PRINGLE** | WR |
| 14 | SAMMY **WATKINS** | WR |
| 15 | PATRICK **MAHOMES** | QB |
| 17 | MECOLE **HARDMAN** | WR |
| 20 | MORRIS **CLAIBORNE** | CB |
| 21 | BASHAUD **BREELAND** | CB |
| 23 | ARMANI **WATTS** | S |
| 24 | JORDAN **LUCAS** | S |
| 25 | LeSEAN **McCOY** | RB |
| 26 | DAMIEN **WILLIAMS** | RB |
| 27 | RASHAD **FENTON** | CB |
| 29 | KENDALL **FULLER** | CB |
| 30 | ALEX **BROWN** | DB |
| 32 | TYRANN **MATHIEU** | S |
| 34 | DARWIN **THOMPSON** | RB |
| 35 | CHARVARIUS **WARD** | CB |
| 41 | JAMES **WINCHESTER** | LS |
| 42 | ANTHONY **SHERMAN** | FB |
| 44 | DORIAN **O'DANIEL** | LB |
| 49 | DANIEL **SORENSEN** | S |
| 50 | DARRON **LEE** | LB |
| 52 | DEMONE **HARRIS** | DE |
| 53 | ANTHONY **HITCHENS** | LB |
| 54 | DAMIEN **WILSON** | LB |
| 55 | FRANK **CLARK** | DE |
| 56 | BEN **NIEMANN** | LB |
| 59 | REGGIE **RAGLAND** | LB |
| 60 | RYAN **HUNTER** | G |
| 61 | STEFEN **WISNIEWSKI** | G |
| 62 | AUSTIN **REITER** | C |
| 64 | MIKE **PENNEL** | DT |
| 68 | JACKSON **BARTON** | T |
| 71 | MITCHELL **SCHWARTZ** | T |
| 72 | ERIC **FISHER** | T |
| 73 | NICK **ALLEGRETTI** | G |
| 75 | CAM **ERVING** | T |
| 76 | LAURENT **DUVERNAY-TARDIF** | G |
| 77 | ANDREW **WYLIE** | G |
| 81 | BLAKE **BELL** | TE |
| 82 | DEON **YELDER** | TE |
| 87 | TRAVIS **KELCE** | TE |
| 91 | DERRICK **NNADI** | DT |
| 92 | TANOH **KPASSAGNON** | DE |
| 94 | TERRELL **SUGGS** | DE |
| 95 | CHRIS **JONES** | DT |
| 98 | XAVIER **WILLIAMS** | DT |
| 99 | KHALEN **SAUNDERS** | DT |

### STATISTICAL LEADERS

| PASSING | COMP-ATT | PCT | YDS | TD | INT | RTNG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PATRICK **MAHOMES** | 319-484 | 65.9 | 4031 | 26 | 5 | 105.3 |
| MATT **MOORE** | 59-91 | 64.8 | 659 | 4 | 0 | 100.9 |

| RUSHING | ATT | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DAMIEN **WILLIAMS** | 111 | 498 | 4.5 | 91t | 5 |
| LeSEAN **McCOY** | 101 | 465 | 4.6 | 39 | 4 |

| RECEIVING | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TRAVIS **KELCE** | 97 | 1229 | 12.7 | 47 | 5 |
| TYREEK **HILL** | 58 | 860 | 14.8 | 57t | 7 |
| SAMMY **WATKINS** | 52 | 673 | 12.9 | 68t | 3 |
| DEMARCUS **ROBINSON** | 32 | 449 | 14.0 | 44t | 4 |
| MECOLE **HARDMAN** | 26 | 538 | 20.7 | 83t | 6 |

| DEFENSE | TACKLES | ASSISTS | TOTAL | SACKS | PD | FF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ANTHONY **HITCHENS** | 51 | 37 | 88 | 2.0 | 1 | 1 |
| DAMIEN **WILSON** | 52 | 29 | 81 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 |
| TYRANN **MATHIEU** | 63 | 12 | 75 | 2.0 | 12 | 0 |
| CHARVARIUS **WARD** | 56 | 18 | 74 | 0.0 | 10 | 1 |
| JUAN **THORNHILL** | 41 | 16 | 57 | 0.0 | 5 | 0 |
| DANIEL **SORENSEN** | 39 | 13 | 52 | 0.0 | 4 | 0 |
| BEN **NIEMANN** | 30 | 20 | 50 | 0.0 | 1 | 0 |
| KENDALL **FULLER** | 34 | 15 | 49 | 1.0 | 2 | 0 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | NO | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TYRANN **MATHIEU** | 4 | 70 | 17.5 | 35 | 0 |
| JUAN **THORNHILL** | 3 | 46 | 15.3 | 46t | 1 |

*Bashaud **Breeland**, Daniel **Sorensen**, and Charvarius **Ward** each with 2 interceptions*

| KICK RETURNS | RET | YDS | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MECOLE **HARDMAN** | 27 | 704 | 26.1 | 104t | 1 |

| PUNT RETURNS | RET | FC | AVG | LONG | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MECOLE **HARDMAN** | 18 | 6 | 9.3 | 36 | 0 |

| PUNTING | NO | AVG | NET | TCHBK | IN/20 | LONG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DUSTIN **COLQUITT** | 48 | 44.3 | 40.3 | 3 | 21 | 68 |

| FIELD GOALS | TOTAL | 1-19 | 20-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HARRISON **BUTKER** | 34/38 | 0/0 | 9/9 | 9/10 | 13/13 | 3/6 |

### OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WR | 10 | **TYREEK HILL** |
| | 11 | DEMARCUS ROBINSON |
| LT | 72 | **ERIC FISHER** |
| | 75 | CAM ERVING |
| LG | 77 | **ANDREW WYLIE** |
| | 61 | STEFEN WISNIEWSKI |
| C | 62 | **AUSTIN REITER** |
| | 73 | NICK ALLEGRETTI |
| RG | 76 | **LAURENT DUVERNAY-TARDIF** |
| | 60 | RYAN HUNTER |
| RT | 71 | **MITCHELL SCHWARTZ** |
| | 68 | JACKSON BARTON |
| TE | 87 | **TRAVIS KELCE** |
| | 81 | BLAKE BELL |
| WR | 14 | **SAMMY WATKINS** |
| | 17 | MECOLE HARDMAN |
| QB | 15 | **PATRICK MAHOMES** |
| | 8 | MATT MOORE |
| RB | 26 | **DAMIEN WILLIAMS** |
| | 25 | LeSEAN McCOY |
| FB | 42 | **ANTHONY SHERMAN** |

### DEFENSIVE DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 92 | **TANOH KPASSAGNON** |
| | 94 | TERRELL SUGGS |
| LDT | 95 | **CHRIS JONES** |
| | 99 | KHALEN SAUNDERS |
| RDT | 91 | **DERRICK NNADI** |
| | 64 | MIKE PENNEL |
| RDE | 55 | **FRANK CLARK** |
| | 52 | DEMONE HARRIS |
| LB | 53 | **ANTHONY HITCHENS** |
| | 56 | BEN NIEMANN |
| LB | 54 | **DAMIEN WILSON** |
| | 59 | REGGIE RAGLAND |
| LCB | 35 | **CHARVARIUS WARD** |
| | 20 | MORRIS CLAIBORNE |
| RCB | 21 | **BASHAUD BREELAND** |
| | 20 | MORRIS CLAIBORNE |
| CB | 29 | **KENDALL FULLER** |
| | 27 | RASHAD FENTON |
| FS | 49 | **DANIEL SORENSEN** |
| | 23 | ARMANI WATTS |
| SS | 32 | **TYRANN MATHIEU** |
| | 24 | JORDAN LUCAS |

### SPECIALISTS DEPTH CHART

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P | 2 | **DUSTIN COLQUITT** |
| K | 7 | **HARRISON BUTKER** |
| | 2 | DUSTIN COLQUITT |
| H | 2 | **DUSTIN COLQUITT** |
| PR | 17 | **MECOLE HARDMAN** |
| | 10 | TYREEK HILL |
| KR | 17 | **MECOLE HARDMAN** |
| | 10 | TYREEK HILL |
| LS | 41 | **JAMES WINCHESTER** |

# THE CHIEFS CHARGE INTO SUPER BOWL LIV

BY MARK PRESTON

**IT'S BEEN A WHILE.** So the Kansas City Chiefs, who represented the fledgling AFL in the very first Super Bowl and last appeared in the big game 50 years ago when they beat the Minnesota Vikings, are now looking to make up for lost time.

That moment almost came last year, but they fell to the New England Patriots in an epic overtime encounter in the AFC Championship Game. This season, they've redefined "epic" on their own terms, rallying from 24 points down to defeat the Texans in the Divisional round before coming from 10 points back to beat the Titans, 35-24, for the conference crown.

The 2019 Chiefs possess much of the same identity coach Andy Reid's teams always have. They're loaded with offensive firepower. But what's different is an improved defense… and a little good fortune. Not only have the Chiefs played extremely well on the field, compiling a 12-4 regular-season record to win the AFC West for the fourth consecutive season, but for a change, they've received some important breaks. Probably the biggest of those came in Week 17 when their win over the Chargers (and the Patriots' loss to Miami) propelled them to the AFC's No. 2 seed and earned a bye week to start the postseason.

**Patrick Mahomes directs** a prolific Chiefs offense that has scored 30-or-more points nine times this season, including 51 in an AFC playoff victory over Houston.

"The extra week off, it's great to have this time of year. You work hard for that," said Reid, who's coaching in his second Super Bowl, having guided the Eagles to Super Bowl XXXIX. "I'm proud of our guys for pushing through because that's hard to do. You need to have the right mindset coming in to finish strong. If you're on that field, you go 100 miles an hour and play your heart out."

The Chiefs have been exceeding the speed limit for most of the season. They won their first four games and their final six, and a few speed bumps in between did nothing to detour their collective determination. They have played all year with a singular fire and a focus,

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**Among the Chiefs' array of offensive stars** are running back Damien Williams (left) and wide receiver Tyreek Hill (right). Williams rushed for a team-leading 498 yards and caught 30 passes out of the backfield, while seven of Hill's 58 receptions during the regular season went for touchdowns.

never losing sight of where they wanted to go.

"The message all year," said QB Patrick Mahomes, "was just, 'Find a way to win.'"

That task becomes much easier when you can dominate on both sides of the ball. For just the second time in 50 years, the Chiefs finished with a top five scoring offense (28.2 ppg, 5th) and a top 10 scoring defense (19.2 ppg, 7th) in the same season. They ranked sixth in the league in yards per game (379.2), second in yards per play (6.2), and, including the playoffs, have reached the 30-point plateau nine times.

## OFFENSE

Although Mahomes this year fell short of the ethereal numbers he posted in earning the league's MVP title in 2018, the 24-year-old signal-caller was no less impressive in directing an explosive offense. He completed 65.9 percent of his passes, throwing for 4,031 yards and 26 touchdowns with just five interceptions. His 8.3 yards per pass was fourth-best in the NFL, and Mahomes became just the fifth quarterback in league history to record at least 4,000 yards passing in two of his first three seasons.

Also as part of his 2019 campaign, Mahomes reached 9,000 passing yards and 75 touchdowns faster than any player in NFL history, achieving those marks in just 30 games.

His numbers are reflective not only of his own outstanding abilities, but also of the talent that surrounds him, most notably tight end Travis Kelce. In his sixth NFL campaign, the 6-foot-5, 260-pound Kelce caught 97 passes for 1,229 yards – both team highs – and five TDs, becoming the first tight end in NFL history with four straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

Wideout Tyreek Hill caught 58 passes for 860 yards and seven TDs, averaging 14.8 yards per catch. A very real deep threat who possesses exceptional speed, Hill was tied for third in the NFL this season with six catches of 40-or-more yards. Mecole Hardman, a rookie out of the University of Georgia, is another speedster whose versatility as a receiver and returner make him a particularly valuable asset. He had 26 catches for 538 yards and six touchdowns, averaging a whopping 20.7 yards per catch.

It's almost an embarrassment of riches for the Chiefs at the receiver position when you add in Sammy Watkins, who caught 52 passes for 673 yards, and Demarcus Robinson, who chipped in with 32 grabs, four that went for TDs.

While this potent receiving corps, aptly nicknamed "The Legion of Zoom," poses a multi-headed threat to opposing defenses, there's more to the offense than an awesome air assault. The Chiefs can likewise hurt you

### 2019 CHIEFS RESULTS (14-4)

| Date | Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/8 | Jacksonville | 40-26 | W |
| 9/15 | Oakland | 28-10 | W |
| 9/22 | BALTIMORE | 33-28 | W |
| 9/29 | Detroit | 34-30 | W |
| 10/6 | INDIANAPOLIS | 13-19 | L |
| 10/13 | HOUSTON | 24-31 | L |
| 10/17 | Denver | 30-6 | W |
| 10/27 | GREEN BAY | 24-31 | L |
| 11/3 | MINNESOTA | 26-23 | W |
| 11/10 | Tennessee | 32-35 | L |
| 11/18 | L.A. Chargers | 24-17 | W |
| 12/1 | OAKLAND | 40-9 | W |
| 12/8 | New England | 23-16 | W |
| 12/15 | DENVER | 23-3 | W |
| 12/22 | Chicago | 26-3 | W |
| 12/29 | L.A. CHARGERS | 31-21 | W |
| **AFC Playoffs** | | | |
| 1/12 | HOUSTON | 51-31 | W |
| 1/19 | TENNESSEE | 35-24 | W |

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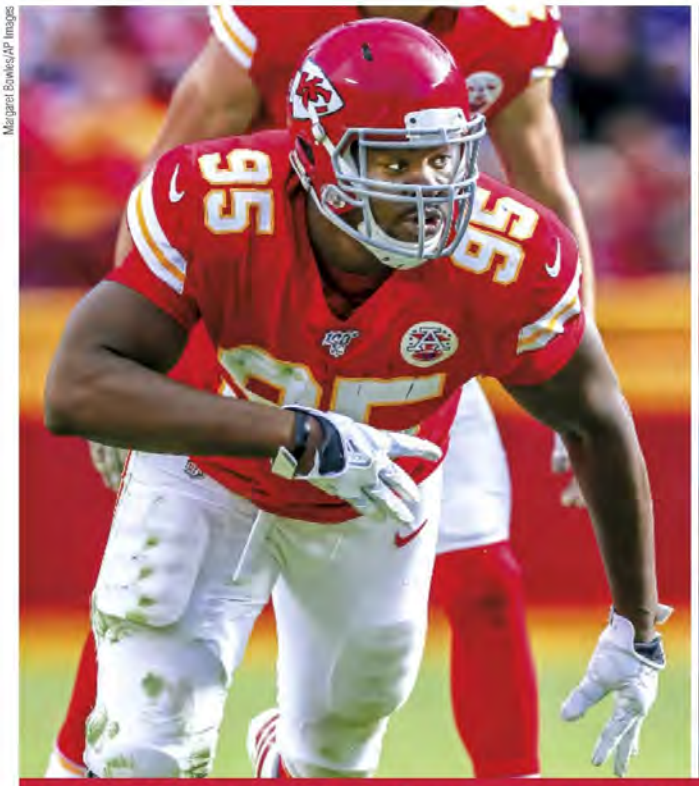

Margaret Bowles/AP Images

G. Newman Lowrance/AP Images

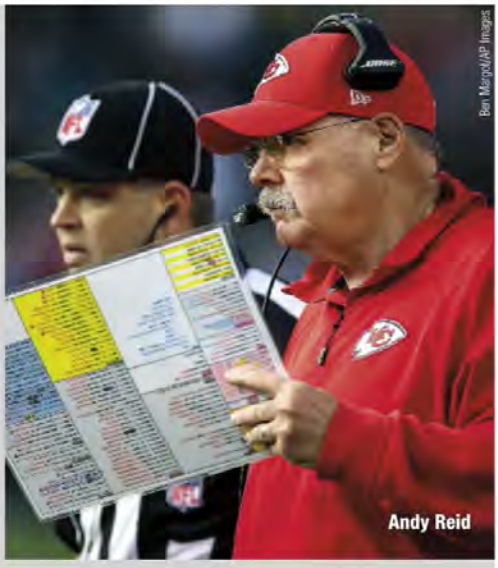
**An improved defense played a major role** in Kansas City reaching Super Bowl LIV. Defensive tackle Chris Jones (left) had nine of the team's 45 sacks, while linebacker Anthony Hitchens (right) was the team leader in tackles with 88, fueling a unit that allowed just 11.5 ppg during the Chiefs' season-ending six-game winning streak.

## REID'S ASSISTANTS HAVE BRANCHED OUT

NFL coaching trees are a topic rich for debate among fans and pundits alike.

While legends like Paul Brown and Bill Walsh always will command the conversation, if you're looking for the giant sequoia of the 21st century, it has to be Chiefs head coach Andy Reid.

Over the past two decades, Reid has sent a long list of assistants on to the head coaching ranks. Ten to be exact. Three of those former assistants – John Harbaugh (Ravens), Doug Pederson (Eagles), and Ron Rivera (Panthers, now with the Redskins) – have reached the Super Bowl, with Harbaugh and Pederson victorious.


Ben Margot/AP Images

Andy Reid

The list also includes current NFL head coaches Sean McDermott (Bills) and Matt Nagy (Bears), as well as past head coaches Todd Bowles (Jets), Brad Childress (Vikings), Leslie Frazier (Vikings), Pat Shurmur (Giants), and Steve Spagnuolo (Rams, Giants), now Reid's defensive coordinator.

Of these coaches, McDermott had the longest apprenticeship under Reid, spending 10 seasons with him in Philadelphia. "Andy did a great job being open to teaching us, in his own way, how you develop yourself – as a position coach, then into a coordinator, and then obviously into a guy who's ready to go when his number is called," McDermott said.

on the ground, with Damien Williams and LeSean McCoy accounting for nine TDs between them. Williams was the Chiefs' leading rusher with 498 yards and this year became just the sixth player in NFL history to have two rushing TDs of 80-plus yards in a season. Fullback Anthony Sherman has played in 112 consecutive games, the league's longest active streak among fullbacks or running backs.

An assortment of injuries forced the Chiefs to juggle personnel on the offensive line, but the results were still notable: Kansas City surrendered the third-fewest sacks in the league. Center Austin Reiter and right tackle Mitchell Schwartz were the only members who played in all 16 regular-season games, and at various times were complemented by left tackles Eric Fisher and Cam Erving, and guards Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, Andrew Wylie, and Stefen Wisniewski.

## DEFENSE

With so much offensive firepower, the Chiefs' defense tends to find itself just slightly outside the spotlight. But Steve Spagnuolo's defense is a solid one, and has become tighter and tougher throughout this season. Consider this: In the

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first 10 games, Kansas City allowed 23.9 points per game and 28 touchdowns, notching six interceptions. In games 11-16, the unit allowed just 11.5 ppg – best in the NFL – and seven TDs, while picking off opposing QBs 10 times.

During last offseason, the Chiefs turned over their entire defensive coaching staff, bringing in Spagnuolo and his 36 years of coaching experience to install a new defensive scheme, switching to a 4-3 base. They also added several new regulars who have played important roles, most notably safety Tyrann Mathieu and defensive end Frank Clark.

Mathieu's impact was immediate. He led Kansas City with four interceptions and 12 passes defended, and ranked third on the team with 75 tackles, including two sacks and three tackles for a loss. His versatility makes him especially valuable; he lined up as a slot cornerback on 411 snaps, safety on 359, and as a linebacker 224 times.

What's more, Mathieu has proven himself a leader, earning the respect of his teammates and taking charge of the defense almost from the time he arrived.

"He's the glue," Spagnuolo said. "He's the guy who can get in the huddle in practice and say, 'Hey, we need to step it up.' You need guys like that. That stuff, I value as a coordinator. It makes my job a lot easier."

Clark had eight sacks to go along with 37 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 14 quarterback hits, one fumble recovery, four passes defensed, and an interception. Chris Jones added a team-high nine sacks from his defensive tackle position.

Linebacker Anthony Hitchens was the team leader in tackles, posting 88. Seven-time Pro Bowl pass rusher Terrell Suggs, waived by the Arizona Cardinals and claimed by the Chiefs near the end of the regular season, has added another veteran presence.

"The first step (to improving this season) was creating that competitive atmosphere," Clark said. "Just being brutally honest, it wasn't here on the defensive side last year. We came in with a whole different type of attitude. We came here to win, we came here to compete, and we want to be the best."

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Chiefs employ one of the best kickers in the game in Harrison Butker, who went 34 of 38 on field goal attempts, with just one miss

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ALL-TIME PLAYOFF RESULTS

**(12 WINS, 19 LOSSES)**

| Year | Playoffs | Location | Final | W/L |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1962 | AFL Championship<br>(Won as Dallas Texans, moved to Kansas City in 1963) | at Houston Oilers | 20-17 (OT) | W |
| 1966 | AFL Championship | at Buffalo | 31-7 | W |
| | **Super Bowl I** | **Green Bay** | **10-35** | **L** |
| 1968 | AFL Divisional | at Oakland | 6-41 | L |
| 1969 | AFL Divisional | at New York Jets | 13-6 | W |
| | AFL Championship | at Oakland | 17-7 | W |
| | **Super Bowl IV** | **Minnesota** | **23-7** | **W** |
| 1971 | AFC Divisional | Miami | 24-27 (2OT) | L |
| 1986 | AFC Wild Card | at New York Jets | 15-35 | L |
| 1990 | AFC Wild Card | at Miami | 16-17 | L |
| 1991 | AFC Wild Card | Los Angeles Raiders | 10-6 | W |
| | AFC Divisional | at Buffalo | 14-37 | L |
| 1992 | AFC Wild Card | at San Diego Chargers | 0-17 | L |
| 1993 | AFC Wild Card | Pittsburgh | 27-24 (OT) | W |
| | AFC Divisional | at Houston Oilers | 28-20 | W |
| | AFC Championship | at Buffalo | 13-30 | L |
| 1994 | AFC Wild Card | at Miami | 17-27 | L |
| 1995 | AFC Divisional | Indianapolis | 7-10 | L |
| 1997 | AFC Divisional | Denver | 10-14 | L |
| 2003 | AFC Divisional | Indianapolis | 31-38 | L |
| 2006 | AFC Wild Card | at Indianapolis | 8-23 | L |
| 2010 | AFC Wild Card | Baltimore | 7-30 | L |
| 2013 | AFC Wild Card | at Indianapolis | 44-45 | L |
| 2015 | AFC Wild Card | at Houston | 30-0 | W |
| | AFC Divisional | at New England | 20-27 | L |
| 2016 | AFC Divisional | Pittsburgh | 16-18 | L |
| 2017 | AFC Wild Card | Tennessee | 21-22 | L |
| 2018 | AFC Divisional | Indianapolis | 31-13 | W |
| | AFC Championship | New England | 31-37 (OT) | L |
| 2019 | AFC Divisional | Houston | 51-31 | W |
| | AFC Championship | Tennessee | 35-24 | W |

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inside 50 yards. He now has 426 career points, tied for the most in NFL history by any player through their first three seasons.

Punter Dustin Colquitt, who's been with the Chiefs since 2005, was solid even if he wasn't busy, averaging 44.3 yards and placing 21 of his 48 kicks inside the 20-yard line.

The versatile Hardman averaged 9.3 yards on punt returns and 26.1 yards on kickoffs, highlighted by a 104-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in Week 17.

## GAME PLAN

Reid's reputation for game planning is well documented; look no further than his 18-3 record in games following a bye week. The lesson is obvious: Give him two weeks to prepare and the results are often very good. And that could be very bad for the Chiefs' opponent on Super Bowl Sunday.

The key won't be to change anything, but to keep doing the things they do best – and those are many. The versatility of Mahomes is an asset that's as valuable as it is rare, and the array of weapons he can deploy will keep a defense from being too aggressive.

And while the Chiefs have proven adept at trading points with any opponent, they no longer need to rely on outscoring a team to win. Their defense under Spagnuolo has become a strength, with a fearsome front and a dynamic secondary that is playing with confidence. So much for an Achilles' heel.

For the Chiefs, getting to the Super Bowl – and winning it – has been the singular mission from the start of the season.

"When you fall short like we did last year, the next step is to go to the Super Bowl, and that's what we've been committed to doing since Day One," Mahomes said. "We understood that going into the season, but we also knew that it was a process. And that is what this team has been great at – getting better every day and fighting to the end for every opportunity we get."

So 50 years removed from their last Super Bowl championship, and one year since coming so agonizingly close to getting back to the big stage, the opportunity is there… and the wait may finally be over.

*Mark Preston is a freelance writer based in Connecticut who has written for the* Official Super Bowl Game Program *for the past 17 years.*

# AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

**KANSAS CITY 35**
**Tennessee 24**

**THE CHIEFS FOUND THEMSELVES** in a familiar position early in the AFC Championship Game against the Titans: a double-figure deficit. But after another stirring comeback, they now find themselves in the Super Bowl.

They spotted Tennessee leads of 10-0 and 17-7 before storming to four consecutive touchdowns to take control and set off a wild celebration at Arrowhead Stadium. QB Patrick Mahomes was masterful, throwing for 294 yards and three touchdowns and adding a dazzling 27-yard TD run just before halftime that put his team ahead to stay.

Sammy Watkins was Mahomes' favorite target, catching seven passes, the last of those a 60-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter that capped the Chiefs' scoring.

Tennessee, though, proved a tough out. The Titans put 10 points on the board before the game was six minutes old – getting a 30-yard field goal from Greg Joseph on their first possession, and after forcing a Chiefs punt, turning to standout back Derrick Henry to cap a nine-play drive with a 4-yard TD run.

The Titans reached paydirt again in the second quarter – with Dennis Kelly catching a 1-yard pass from Ryan Tannehill on a tackle-eligible play – but that's when fortunes shifted.

Mahomes, who had connected with Tyreek Hill on an 8-yard TD for the Chiefs' first touchdown, found the fourth-year receiver again, this time from 20 yards out, to cut the deficit to 17-14. He then took matters into his own hands – and legs – on their next possession, avoiding a pass rush to break free down the left sideline and instead of going out of bounds to preserve the clock, turned toward the goal line and dove into the end zone to put his team in front with 11 seconds left on the clock. The Chiefs never looked back.

Defensively for the winners, Tyrann Mathieu had a team-high nine tackles, while Tanoh Kpassagnon contributed two sacks and Frank Clark added one. Clark's sack will long be remembered by Chiefs fans, coming on a fourth down play with just over a minute remaining and resulting in a 17-yard loss that signaled it was time for the celebration to begin.

**ARROWHEAD STADIUM**
**Kansas City, Mo.** **Jan. 19, 2020**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee | 10 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 24 |
| Kansas City | 7 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 35 |

**1st Quarter**
TEN Joseph 30 FG, 3:31
TEN Henry 4 run (Joseph kick), 9:08
KC Hill 8 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 14:14

**2nd Quarter**
TEN Kelly 1 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 8:21
KC Hill 20 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 10:57
KC Mahomes 27 run (Butker kick), 14:49

**4th Quarter**
KC Williams 3 run (Butker kick), 0:10
KC Watkins 60 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 7:27
TEN Firkser 22 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 10:42

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DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KEN SENG EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DANA GOLDBERG DON GRANGER EDWARD CHENG JOHN J. KELLY TIM MILLER BONNIE CURTIS JULIE LYNN
PRODUCED BY JAMES CAMERON, p.g.a. DAVID ELLISON, p.g.a. STORY BY JAMES CAMERON & CHARLES EGLEE & JOSH FRIEDMAN & DAVID GOYER & JUSTIN RHODES
SCREENPLAY BY DAVID GOYER & JUSTIN RHODES AND BILLY RAY DIRECTED BY TIM MILLER SOUNDTRACK ALBUM ON PARAMOUNT MUSIC

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SKYDANCE

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## CLARK HUNT Chairman and CEO

**CLARK HUNT** has been involved in the leadership of the Kansas City Chiefs for more than a decade and currently serves as the club's chairman and CEO.

Hunt has been the driving force behind the resurgence of the Chiefs, transforming the iconic franchise into one of the most successful teams in the National Football League. Since taking over as CEO in 2010, the Chiefs have earned five AFC West Division championships, seven playoff appearances, and back-to-back trips to the AFC Championship Game. This season, for the first time in club history, Hunt hoisted the award bearing his father's name – the Lamar Hunt Trophy – given to the champions of the AFC. The Chiefs have now advanced to their third Super Bowl in franchise history and their first under Hunt's leadership.

In January 2013, Hunt modified the leadership structure of the organization, announcing that for the first time in club history, the head coach, the general manager, and the team president would all report directly to the chairman and CEO. Hunt hired head coach Andy Reid in 2013, and in seven seasons under Reid, the Chiefs have won 77 regular-season games, which ranks second in the NFL during that span.

Prior to the start of the 2017 season, Hunt extended Reid's contract and also made a change in the leadership of the personnel department, naming Brett Veach as the seventh general manager in franchise history.

In addition to the on-field resurgence of the team, Hunt is a leading voice among NFL owners. In 2019, he was named chairman of the influential NFL Finance Committee after serving as a member for seven years. Hunt is a member and former chairman of the NFL International Committee, and he also serves on the Management Council's Executive Committee (CEC) and the Personal Conduct Committee. Hunt was instrumental in securing the NFL's collective bargaining agreement in 2011, and he was one of six members of the NFL Committee on Los Angeles Opportunities.

Hunt graduated first in his class at Southern Methodist University in 1987, earning a degree in business administration with a concentration in finance. He also was a four-year letterman on the Mustangs' nationally-ranked soccer team. He currently serves on the SMU Board of Trustees, and he also serves as president of the Board of Trustees for the St. Mark's School of Texas.

**Chairman & CEO Clark Hunt** signs autographs for young fans at the Chiefs' training camp.

He and his wife, Tavia, are actively involved in numerous philanthropic initiatives in both Kansas City and Dallas. One of the Hunt family's lasting legacies is the Chiefs Charity Game, which has raised more than $13.5 million for local youth-focused charities since its inception in 1985.

The Hunts have three children – Gracelyn, Knobel, and Ava.

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS TEAM OFFICIALS

**CLARK HUNT**
Chairman and CEO

**MARK DONOVAN**
President

**BRETT VEACH**
General Manager

**MIKE BORGONZI**
Director of Football Operations

**TIM TERRY**
Director of Pro Personnel

**BRANDT TILIS**
Director of Football Administration

**CHRIS SHEA**
Football Operations Counsel & Personnel Executive

**MIKE BRADWAY**
Assistant Director of Pro Personnel

**RYAN POLES**
Assistant Director of Pro Personnel

**RYNE NUTT**
Director of College Scouting

**MICHAEL DAVIS**
Personnel Executive

**DAN CRUMB**
Chief Financial Officer

**TYLER EPP**
Executive Vice President of Business Operations

**RICK BURKHOLDER**
Vice President of Sports Medicine and Performance

**TED CREWS**
Vice President of Communications

**MIKE CUKYNE**
Vice President of Content and Digital Operations

**BRANDON HAMILTON**
Vice President of Stadium Operations and Facilities

**KIM HOBBS**
Vice President of Corporate Partnerships and Premium Sales

**MATT KENNY**
Vice President of Stadium Services and Events

**TYLER KIRBY**
Vice President of Ticketing

**KIRSTEN KRUG**
Vice President of Administration

**ANNE SCHARF**
Vice President of Hunt Family Foundation and Civic Affairs

**JEFFREY MILLER**
Vice President of Security

**ALLEN WRIGHT**
Equipment Director

**PAT BRAZIL**
Director of Video Operations

**MITCH REYNOLDS**
Director of Team Operations

**BRIAN SHAFAR**
Director of Team Security

**KELLEN BEGNOCHE**
Director of Service and Activation

**NICK CAPO**
Director of Event Operations

**CHUCK CASTELLANO**
Director of Community Outreach

**GLENN CONNELLY**
Director of Production

**BRAD GEE**
Director of Football Communications

**KEVIN HIGGINS**
Director of Information Technology

**STEPH JUDAH**
Director of Chiefs Cheerleaders

**JAYNE MARTIN**
Director of Fan Experience

**ANTHONY MATTHIES**
Partnerships and Premium Sales Director

**ROCCO MAZELLA**
Director of Team Facilities

**MICHAEL RAGSDALE**
Director of Financial Planning and Analysis

**JOE SARGENT**
Director of Brand Marketing

**JUSTIN SAUSER**
Director of Ticket Operations

**JEREMY SLAVENS**
Director of Events

**GARY SPANI**
Director of Community Engagement

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## ANDY REID Head Coach

Chiefs head coach **ANDY REID** is in his 28th NFL season, 21st as a head coach, and seventh with the Chiefs. Under Reid, the Chiefs have made the playoffs six times and are on a run of a franchise-record four straight AFC West titles (2016-19).

In 2019, Kansas City went 12-4 and Reid brought the Chiefs to the AFC Championship Game for the second consecutive year and to the Super Bowl for the third time in franchise history.

Reid ranks sixth in NFL annals with 221 career wins, trailing only New England's Bill Belichick (304) among active head coaches.

Prior to joining the Chiefs, Reid led the Eagles to a 130-93-1 (.583) regular-season record during his 14 seasons as head coach, including a Super Bowl appearance in 2004. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1999 after seven seasons as an assistant coach with the Packers under Mike Holmgren.

A tackle/guard at Brigham Young University from 1979-81, Reid entered the coaching ranks as a graduate assistant at BYU in 1982. He coached at several colleges before moving on to the NFL, the last stop being the University of Missouri (1989-91).

## ASSISTANT COACHES

**ERIC BIENIEMY**..... Offensive Coordinator
**JOE BLEYMAIER**..... Pass Game Analyst/Asst. Quarterbacks
**TERRY BRADDEN**..... Defensive Quality Control
**GREG CARBIN**..... Assistant Strength & Conditioning
**TRAVIS CRITTENDEN**..... Assistant Strength & Conditioning
**BRENDAN DALY**..... Run Game Coordinator/Defensive Line
**PORTER ELLETT**..... Senior Assistant to the Head Coach
**CONNOR EMBREE**..... Defensive Assistant
**MIKE FRAZIER**..... Statistical Analysis Coordinator
**DAVID GIRARDI**..... Offensive Quality Control
**ANDY HECK**..... Offensive Line
**MATT HOUSE**..... Linebackers
**MIKE KAFKA**..... Quarterbacks
**GREG LEWIS**..... Wide Receivers
**SAM MADISON**..... Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks
**COREY MATTHAEI**..... Assistant Offensive Line
**DELAND McCULLOUGH**..... Running Backs
**TOM MELVIN**..... Tight Ends
**DAVE MERRITT**..... Defensive Backs
**BRITT REID**..... Linebackers/Outside Linebackers
**RYAN REYNOLDS**..... Assistant Strength & Conditioning
**BARRY RUBIN**..... Head Strength & Conditioning
**STEVE SPAGNUOLO**..... Defensive Coordinator
**DAVE TOUB**..... Asst. Head Coach/Special Teams Coord.
**ALEX WHITTINGHAM**..... Defensive Quality Control
**ROD WILSON**..... Assistant Special Teams

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

| NO | PLAYER | POS | HT | WT | BIRTH DATE | NFL EXP | COLLEGE | HOW ACQUIRED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73 | **Allegretti**, Nick | G | 6-4 | 320 | 4/21/96 | R | Illinois | D7 '19 |
| 68 | **Barton**, Jackson | T | 6-7 | 302 | 8/8/95 | R | Utah | FA '19 |
| 81 | **Bell**, Blake | TE | 6-6 | 252 | 8/7/91 | 5 | Oklahoma | FA '19 |
| 21 | **Breeland**, Bashaud | CB | 5-11 | 195 | 1/30/92 | 6 | Clemson | UFA '19 |
| 30 | **Brown**, Alex | DB | 5-11 | 170 | 8/30/96 | R | South Carolina State | FA '19 |
| 7 | **Butker**, Harrison | K | 6-4 | 205 | 7/14/95 | 3 | Georgia Tech | FA '17 |
| 20 | **Claiborne**, Morris | CB | 5-11 | 192 | 2/7/90 | 8 | Louisiana State | FA '19 |
| 55 | **Clark**, Frank | DE | 6-3 | 260 | 6/17/93 | 5 | Michigan | T (SEA) '19 |
| 2 | **Colquitt**, Dustin | P | 6-3 | 210 | 5/6/82 | 15 | Tennessee | D3 '05 |
| 76 | **Duvernay-Tardif**, Laurent | G | 6-5 | 321 | 2/11/91 | 6 | McGill | D6b '14 |
| 75 | **Erving**, Cam | T | 6-5 | 313 | 8/23/92 | 5 | Florida State | T (CLE) '17 |
| 27 | **Fenton**, Rashad | CB | 5-11 | 188 | 2/17/97 | R | South Carolina | D6a '19 |
| 72 | **Fisher**, Eric | T | 6-7 | 315 | 1/5/91 | 7 | Central Michigan | D1 '13 |
| 29 | **Fuller**, Kendall | CB | 5-11 | 198 | 2/13/95 | 4 | Virginia Tech | T (WAS) '18 |
| 17 | **Hardman**, Mecole | WR | 5-10 | 187 | 3/12/98 | R | Georgia | D2a '19 |
| 52 | **Harris**, Demone | DE | 6-4 | 272 | 12/30/95 | 1 | Buffalo | FA '19 |
| 4 | **Henne**, Chad | QB | 6-3 | 222 | 7/2/85 | 11 | Michigan | UFA '18 |
| 10 | **Hill**, Tyreek | WR | 5-10 | 185 | 3/1/94 | 4 | West Alabama | D5b '16 |
| 53 | **Hitchens**, Anthony | LB | 6-0 | 235 | 6/10/92 | 6 | Iowa | UFA '18 |
| 60 | **Hunter**, Ryan | G | 6-3 | 316 | 4/1/95 | 1 | Bowling Green | CFA '18 |
| 95 | **Jones**, Chris | DT | 6-6 | 310 | 7/3/94 | 4 | Mississippi State | D2 '16 |
| 87 | **Kelce**, Travis | TE | 6-5 | 260 | 10/5/89 | 7 | Cincinnati | D3a '13 |
| 92 | **Kpassagnon**, Tanoh | DE | 6-7 | 289 | 6/14/94 | 3 | Villanova | D2 '17 |
| 50 | **Lee**, Darron | LB | 6-1 | 232 | 10/18/94 | 4 | Ohio State | T (NYJ) '19 |
| 24 | **Lucas**, Jordan | S | 6-1 | 190 | 8/2/93 | 4 | Penn State | T (MIA) '18 |
| 15 | **Mahomes**, Patrick | QB | 6-3 | 230 | 9/17/95 | 3 | Texas Tech | D1 '17 |
| 32 | **Mathieu**, Tyrann | S | 5-9 | 190 | 5/13/92 | 7 | Louisiana State | UFA '19 |
| 25 | **McCoy**, LeSean | RB | 5-11 | 210 | 7/12/88 | 11 | Pittsburgh | FA '19 |
| 8 | **Moore**, Matt | QB | 6-3 | 219 | 8/9/84 | 12 | Oregon State | FA '19 |
| 56 | **Niemann**, Ben | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 7/27/95 | 2 | Iowa | CFA '18 |
| 91 | **Nnadi**, Derrick | DT | 6-1 | 312 | 5/9/96 | 2 | Florida State | D3 '18 |
| 44 | **O'Daniel**, Dorian | LB | 6-1 | 220 | 9/4/94 | 2 | Clemson | D3b '18 |
| 64 | **Pennel**, Mike | DT | 6-4 | 330 | 5/9/91 | 6 | Colorado St.-Pueblo | FA '19 |
| 13 | **Pringle**, Byron | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 11/17/93 | 2 | Kansas State | CFA '18 |
| 59 | **Ragland**, Reggie | LB | 6-2 | 252 | 9/23/93 | 4 | Alabama | T (BUF) '17 |
| 62 | **Reiter**, Austin | C | 6-3 | 300 | 11/27/91 | 4 | South Florida | W (CLE) '18 |
| 11 | **Robinson**, Demarcus | WR | 6-1 | 203 | 9/21/94 | 4 | Florida | D4c '16 |
| 99 | **Saunders**, Khalen | DT | 6-0 | 324 | 8/9/96 | R | Western Illinois | D3 '19 |
| 71 | **Schwartz**, Mitchell | T | 6-5 | 320 | 6/8/89 | 8 | California | UFA '16 |
| 42 | **Sherman**, Anthony | FB | 5-10 | 242 | 12/11/88 | 9 | Connecticut | T (ARI) '13 |
| 49 | **Sorensen**, Daniel | S | 6-2 | 208 | 3/5/90 | 6 | Brigham Young | CFA '14 |
| 94 | **Suggs**, Terrell | DE | 6-3 | 265 | 10/11/82 | 17 | Arizona State | W (ARI) '19 |
| 34 | **Thompson**, Darwin | RB | 5-8 | 200 | 2/12/97 | R | Utah State | D6b '19 |
| 35 | **Ward**, Charvarius | CB | 6-1 | 198 | 5/16/96 | 2 | Middle Tennessee St. | T (DAL) '18 |
| 14 | **Watkins**, Sammy | WR | 6-1 | 211 | 6/14/93 | 6 | Clemson | UFA '18 |
| 23 | **Watts**, Armani | S | 5-11 | 205 | 3/19/96 | 2 | Texas A&M | D4 '18 |
| 26 | **Williams**, Damien | RB | 5-11 | 224 | 4/3/92 | 6 | Oklahoma | UFA '18 |
| 98 | **Williams**, Xavier | DT | 6-2 | 309 | 1/18/92 | 5 | Northern Iowa | RFA '18 |
| 54 | **Wilson**, Damien | LB | 6-0 | 245 | 5/28/93 | 5 | Minnesota | UFA '19 |
| 41 | **Winchester**, James | LS | 6-3 | 240 | 8/6/89 | 5 | Oklahoma | FA '15 |
| 61 | **Wisniewski**, Stefen | G | 6-3 | 305 | 3/22/89 | 9 | Penn State | FA '19 |
| 77 | **Wylie**, Andrew | G | 6-6 | 309 | 8/19/94 | 2 | Eastern Michigan | FA '17 |
| 82 | **Yelder**, Deon | TE | 6-4 | 255 | 3/6/95 | 2 | Western Kentucky | FA '18 |

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# AFC CHAMPIONS

# KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

**Nick Allegretti (73)**
Guard

**Jackson Barton (68)**
Tackle

**Blake Bell (81)**
Tight End

**Bashaud Breeland (21)**
Cornerback

**Alex Brown (30)**
Defensive Back

**Harrison Butker (7)**
Kicker

**Morris Claiborne (20)**
Cornerback

**Frank Clark (55)**
Defensive End

**Dustin Colquitt (2)**
Punter

**Laurent Duvernay-Tardif (76)**
Guard

**Cam Erving (75)**
Tackle

**Rashad Fenton (27)**
Cornerback

**Eric Fisher (72)**
Tackle

**Kendall Fuller (29)**
Cornerback

**Mecole Hardman (17)**
Wide Receiver

**Demone Harris (52)**
Defensive End

**Chad Henne (4)**
Quarterback

**Tyreek Hill (10)**
Wide Receiver

**Anthony Hitchens (53)**
Linebacker

**Ryan Hunter (60)**
Guard

**Chris Jones (95)**
Defensive Tackle

**Travis Kelce (87)**
Tight End

**Tanoh Kpassagnon (92)**
Defensive End

**Darron Lee (50)**
Linebacker

**Jordan Lucas (24)**
Safety

**Patrick Mahomes (15)**
Quarterback

**Tyrann Mathieu (32)**
Safety

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# AFC CHAMPIONS

**LeSean McCoy (25)**
Running Back

**Matt Moore (8)**
Quarterback

**Ben Niemann (56)**
Linebacker

**Derrick Nnadi (91)**
Defensive Tackle

**Dorian O'Daniel (44)**
Linebacker

**Mike Pennel (64)**
Defensive Tackle

**Byron Pringle (13)**
Wide Receiver

**Reggie Ragland (59)**
Linebacker

**Austin Reiter (62)**
Center

**Demarcus Robinson (11)**
Wide Receiver

**Khalen Saunders (99)**
Defensive Tackle

**Mitchell Schwartz (71)**
Tackle

**Anthony Sherman (42)**
Fullback

**Daniel Sorensen (49)**
Safety

**Terrell Suggs (94)**
Defensive End

**Darwin Thompson (34)**
Running Back

**Charvarius Ward (35)**
Cornerback

**Sammy Watkins (14)**
Wide Receiver

**Armani Watts (23)**
Safety

**Damien Williams (26)**
Running Back

**Xavier Williams (98)**
Defensive Tackle

**Damien Wilson (54)**
Linebacker

**James Winchester (41)**
Long Snapper

**Stefen Wisniewski (61)**
Guard

**Andrew Wylie (77)**
Guard

**Deon Yelder (82)**
Tight End

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*Source: Euromonitor International Limited: in terms of retail sales value in 2018, based on the custom research conducted in March-April 2019 in the countries that account for more than 70% share of the global topical analgesics/anesthetic market in 2018.

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2020 GLS 580 shown in Selenite Grey metallic paint with optional equipment. ©2020 Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

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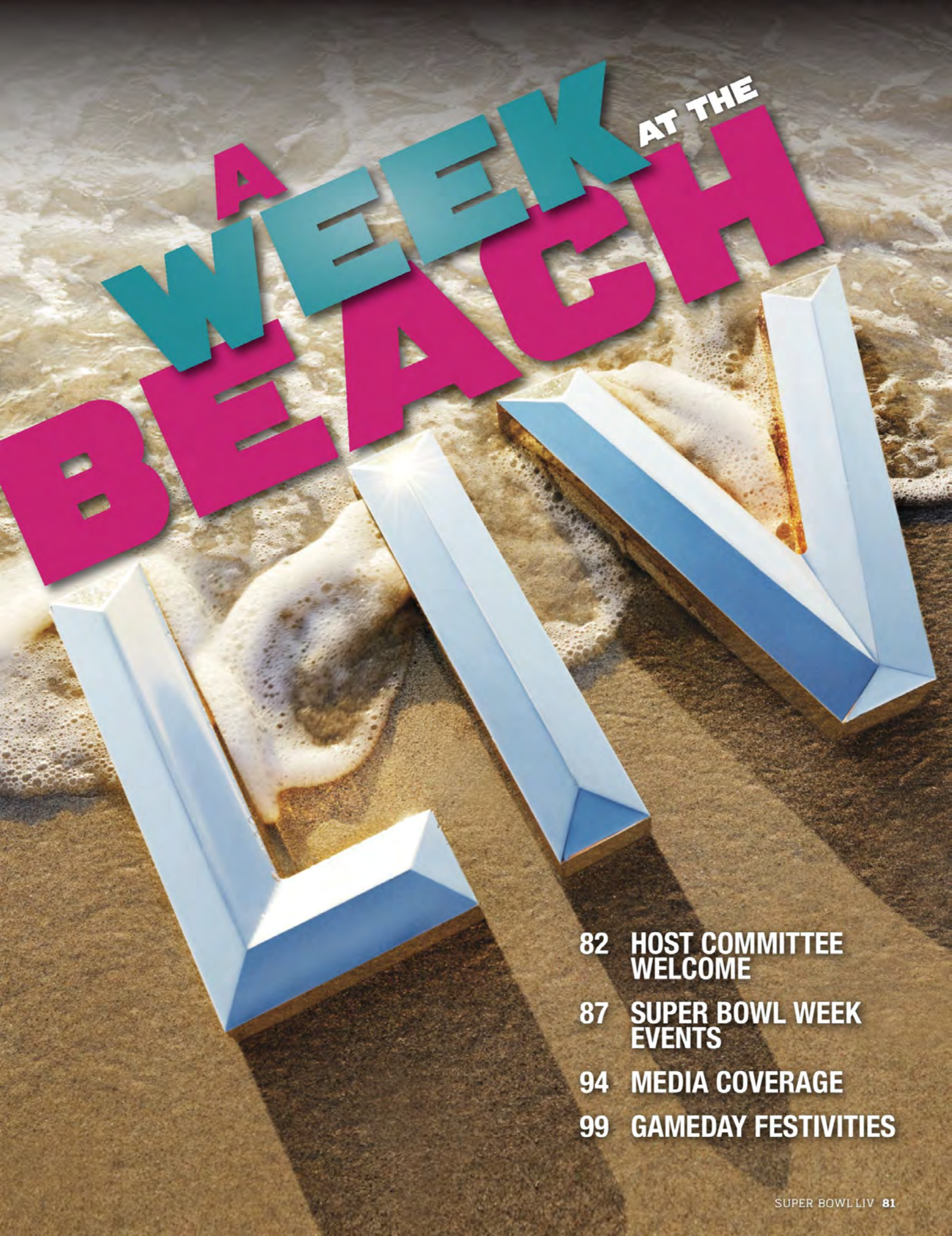


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94 MEDIA COVERAGE

99 GAMEDAY FESTIVITIES

# WELCOME TO SUPER BOWL LIV

## Welcome to Miami!

On behalf of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee, our Board of Directors, and partners across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, I welcome you to Super Bowl LIV. As my third time chairing a Super Bowl Host Committee, it is an honor to know we are not only hosting our record-breaking 11th Super Bowl, but that we were chosen as the host city to celebrate the culmination of the NFL's 100th Season.

I am confident that as you experience everything that South Florida has to offer, you will enjoy and learn how we #LIVEITMIAMI. Many things have changed from the last time we hosted a Super Bowl 10 years ago. You will be able to visit new and emerging neighborhoods and local attractions, use state-of-the-art transportation, and savor the variety of tastes and sounds of our multicultural community. We look forward to bringing it all to life and providing you with a memorable experience and the opportunity to show your team spirit at Super Bowl LIVE in Bayfront Park.

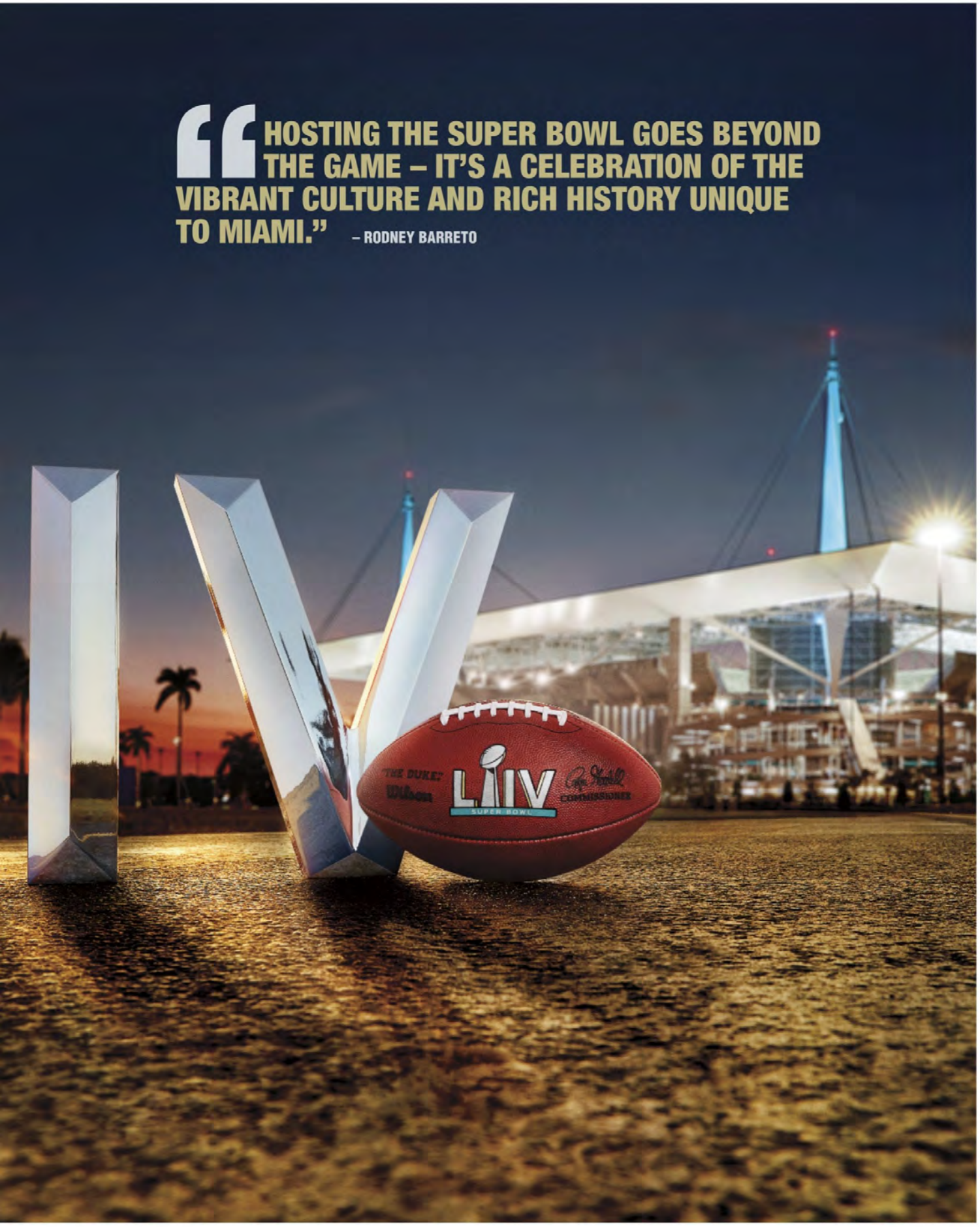
During our time as the Super Bowl host city, we've seen our community come together around important issues such as sustainability, conservation, and civic enhancement projects – initiatives that will leave a long-lasting legacy beyond the game.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, we hope that you fall in love with the magic that is Miami. It is that same magic that makes us not only the hottest city in the country, but in the world.

#LIVEITMIAMI

Rodney Barreto
*Chairman,*
*Miami Super Bowl Host Committee*

SUPER BOWL LIV
LIVE IT MIAMI
SUPER BOWL HOST COMMITTEE


"HOSTING THE SUPER BOWL GOES BEYOND THE GAME – IT'S A CELEBRATION OF THE VIBRANT CULTURE AND RICH HISTORY UNIQUE TO MIAMI." – RODNEY BARRETO
LIV
SUPER BOWL

Courtesy of The Women's Fund

Rashad Thomas

**Clockwise from top left:** The Miami Super Bowl Host Committee partnered with The Women's Fund and State's Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle among other partners to launch the Stop Sex-Trafficking Initiative. Miami Beach Senior High School received a new turf football field as part of one of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee's Legacy Projects in partnership with the NFL Foundation and the Miami Dolphins. Representing the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee's Ocean to Everglades initiative is the beautiful Everglades, which provides water for 8 million South Floridians.

# Leadership & Legacy in South Florida

**MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO,** the first Super Bowl Host Committee was established in South Florida with the goal of furthering community engagement surrounding the Big Game.

Fast forward to today when football fans across the globe are celebrating the 100th season of the NFL. With South Florida hosting a record-breaking 11th Super Bowl, the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee is focused on leaving a lasting legacy behind. The goal is to deliver impactful and authentic change within the areas of environment, sustainability, social justice, economic development, and capital improvement.

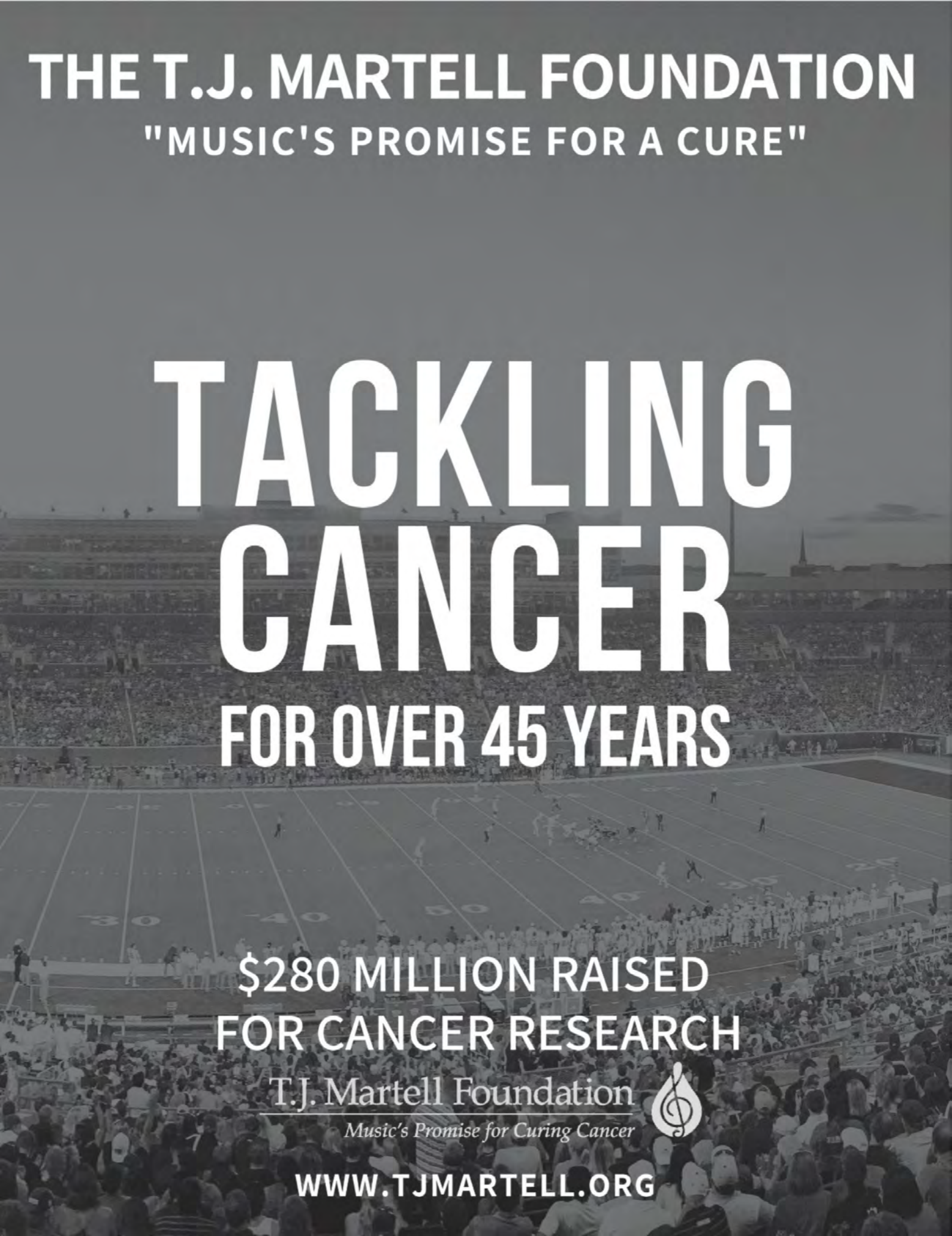
With the creation of the Ocean to Everglades initiative, the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee has applied a sustainability lens to every facet of its work. This includes implementing stricter sustainability guidelines for vendors and partners participating at Super Bowl LIVE at Bayfront Park and spearheading environmental restoration projects.

The beauty of Miami is what attracts people to live and play here. From the ocean to the Everglades, our local economy is tied to water. Visitors spend up to $20 billion a year, which roughly translates into 280,000 jobs. In partnership with The Everglades Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, and NFL Green, Ocean to Everglades has created educational opportunities and hosted innovative events that highlight Miami's unique natural resources and emphasize the importance of their protection and conservation.

Just like the environment, local businesses are also benefiting from Super Bowl LIV. In partnership with the NFL Foundation, the Host Committee leads the Business Connect program. This program is designed to identify local, diverse businesses and match them with revenue-producing opportunities generated by the events and initiatives surrounding the Super Bowl.

The Miami Super Bowl Host Committee also set out to address and help combat the critical social issue of sex trafficking. Partnering with more than 300 non-for-profits and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, the goal is to unite under a single umbrella and not only raise awareness around the issue but to coordinate rapid response capabilities that will help recover victims and arrest offenders.

So, while most people focus on the Super Bowl and the countless festivities that surround it, host committees are quietly working toward delivering initiatives that will leave an impact long after the final whistle is blown. **#LIVEITMIAMI**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## NFL SHOP

presented by VISA

### MAIN STORE

**Location:** Super Bowl Experience – Miami Beach Convention Center
**Dates:** Jan. 25 – Feb. 1

The main store will feature core Super Bowl products as well as specialty items, including customizable socks and tees. The assortment also will include all 32 NFL teams.

### SATELLITE STORE

**Location:** Super Bowl LIVE – Bayfront Park
**Dates:** Jan. 25 – Feb. 1

This shop will be the main hub of many activations, such as player appearances, concerts, and customization. It will feature a wide selection of exclusive products, including limited-edition footballs, watches, Build-A-Bear, and more. It also will include Nike and New Era apparel and products for all 32 NFL teams.

• More than a dozen additional NFL Shop presented by Visa satellite stores are located throughout Miami. Go to **nfl.com/sbnflshop** for the complete list.

Rich Graessle/Getty Images

# Super Bowl Experience Presented by Lowe's

**SUPER BOWL EXPERIENCE PRESENTED BY LOWE'S TAKES PLACE AT** the Miami Beach Convention Center from Saturday, Jan. 25, through Sunday, Jan. 26, and from Wednesday, Jan. 29, through Saturday, Feb. 1.

The most exciting continuous event surrounding Super Bowl LIV, Super Bowl Experience is pro football's interactive theme park offering participatory games, youth football clinics, merchandise from NFL Shop presented by Visa, and autograph sessions with NFL players. It also features personalized digital photos, a 40-yard dash and vertical jump against NFL players on LED screens, a virtual reality experience, an enhanced Super Bowl rings display, and photos with the Vince Lombardi Trophy!

## SUPER BOWL EXPERIENCE INFORMATION

### TICKETS

Super Bowl Experience tickets can be purchased by visiting **superbowl.com** or the Super Bowl Experience Box Office at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Kids under 12 are free all week!

### SBXOT

SBXOT is a multi-use ticket, good to use for multiple days of fun at the Super Bowl Experience!

### SBXTRA

SBXTRA allows fans priority access to their favorite Super Bowl Experience attractions throughout the day, beginning at the time slot purchased. Attractions include the **Autograph Stage**, **Vince Lombardi Trophy**, **Interactive Games**, and **NFL PLAY 60 Clinic Field**.

### Hours of Operation

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, Jan. 25: | 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. |
| Sunday, Jan. 26: | 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 27: | CLOSED |
| Tuesday, Jan. 28: | CLOSED |
| Wednesday, Jan. 29: | 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 30: | 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 31: | 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. |
| Saturday, Feb. 1: | 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. |

# Super Bowl LIVE Presented by Verizon

**SUPER BOWL LIVE IS THE HOST COMMITTEE'S** free-to-the-public fan fest that offers a fully integrated, interactive, and immersive experience for fans to enjoy, while highlighting the Super Bowl's unique place in Miami's history.

The seven-day event runs Saturday, Jan. 25, through Saturday, Feb. 1, at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami and features the Huddle Down Community Stage (with bands, specialty musicians, dance teams, and visual arts performances); Road to the 11th; Tailgate Town, featuring a culinary stage; live water shows; an environmental village; evening parades; fireworks over Biscayne Bay; and much more.

Two evening concerts (8 p.m.) will take place at the VerizonUp Stage at the Bayfront Amphitheater, with the Jan. 31 show headlined by JPerry, Walshy Fire Miami Orchestra, and Nu Deco Ensemble, and the Feb. 1 show to feature Fitz and the Tantrums and Domino Saints. The Amphitheater also will host AFC and NFC team pep rallies from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. on Feb. 1.

For more information on Super Bowl LIVE, please visit **MIASBLIV.com**.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, Jan. 25: | 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. |
| Sunday, Jan. 26: | 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 27: | 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Jan. 28: | 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 29: | CLOSED |
| Thursday, Jan. 30: | 4 p.m. – 11 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 31: | 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. |
| Saturday, Feb. 1: | 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. |

## BRIDGESTONE FAN GALLERY

The Bridgestone Fan Gallery will live within the Super Bowl LIV Media Center presented by Microsoft at the Miami Beach Convention Center from Sunday, Jan. 26, through Friday, Jan. 31. Fans can watch media members in action at the Fan Gallery and soak up the energy that will constantly be swarming around the Media Center throughout Super Bowl LIV.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, Jan. 26: | 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 29: | 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. |
| Thursday, Jan. 30: | 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 31: | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. |

Pro Football Hall of Fame

## GRIDIRON GLORY EXHIBIT

HistoryMiami (101 West Flagler Street) is hosting *Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame* through Sunday, Feb. 9.

The traveling 8,000-square-foot exhibit features more than 200 artifacts, rare photographs, one-of-a-kind documents, footage from NFL Films, and interactive displays. It also includes a "Hometown Heroes" section to spotlight the Miami Dolphins and other local football heroes.

For exhibit hours and ticket information, visit **historymiami.org**.

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**Super Bowl Opening Night** brings the teams, media, and fans together for a fantastic evening of fun.

**Packers QB Aaron Rodgers** was among the recipients at last year's *NFL Honors* awards show in Atlanta.

**For the 21st consecutive year,** the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration will be a part of Super Bowl Week.

Rick Diamond/Getty Images

## WATCH
### SUPER BOWL OPENING NIGHT PRESENTED BY BOLT24

**Jan. 27 • Marlins Park • 7 p.m.**

Super Bowl Opening Night presented by BOLT24 is the national kickoff for Super Bowl LIV festivities. Be a part of the action as Super Bowl players and coaches address the nation for the first time, live from Miami! Super Bowl Opening Night is the first place that Super Bowl players and coaches from both teams will interact with the media before Super Bowl LIV, and the only time the two teams will be in one location before the game. Celebrate with cheerleaders and team mascots, collect free autographs from NFL players and Legends, immerse yourself in the media frenzy from up-close viewing platforms, take advantage of unique photo opportunities, and more! To purchase tickets, visit **nfl.com/openingnightonsale**.

### NFL HONORS

**Feb. 1 • Adrienne Arsht Center • 4:30 p.m.**

*NFL Honors* is the National Football League's annual awards show recognizing the NFL's best players, performances, and plays from the current season. The two-hour primetime show will air nationally on Feb. 1, the eve of Super Bowl LIV (8 p.m. ET on FOX), and be hosted by Emmy® Award-winning entertainer Steve Harvey. *NFL Honors* will be taped earlier that evening at the Adrienne Arsht Center in downtown Miami. The 2020 Pro Football Hall of Fame class will be introduced together for the first time and the NFL and the Associated Press will announce their annual accolades, with the winners on-hand to accept their awards.

## LISTEN
### BUD LIGHT SUPER BOWL LIV MUSIC FEST

**Jan. 30 – Feb. 1 • American Airlines Arena • 8 p.m.**

Miami's American Airlines Arena is the site of the Bud Light Super Bowl LIV Music Fest, delivering three nights of diverse and dynamic performances. DJ Khaled, Meek Mill, DaBaby, and Megan Thee Stallion headline the Jan. 30 show; Guns N' Roses and Snoop Dogg are on the Jan. 31 bill; and Maroon 5 with special guest Dan + Shay perform Feb. 1. Tickets are available at **superbowlmusicfest.com**.

### SUPER BOWL GOSPEL CELEBRATION

**Jan. 30 • James L. Knight Center • 7 p.m.**

The 21st Annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration (SBGC) will help kick off Super Bowl LIV with a star-studded music jubilation at the James L. Knight Center. The event brings together NFL players, top gospel, contemporary Christian, and mainstream GRAMMY Award-winning artists, and other special guests on one stage for an evening of uplifting music and inspirational messages. The show will be taped and air on BET on Saturday, Feb. 1. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit **superbowlgospel.com**.

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## DINE
### SUPER BOWL BREAKFAST

**Feb. 1 • The Diplomat Beach Resort • 8 a.m.**

The NFL-sanctioned Athletes in Action Super Bowl Breakfast has taken place in the Super Bowl host city every year since 1988, drawing sellout crowds to hear from some of the sport's biggest names. Among the speakers at this year's breakfast are Super Bowl-winning coach Tony Dungy and former NFL star Akbar Gbajabiamila. The Bart Starr Award, presented at the breakfast, honors Starr's lifelong commitment to serving as a positive role model to his family, teammates, and community. This year's recipient is two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning. Learn more at **superbowlbreakfast.com**.

**Tony Dungy** will be among the featured speakers at this year's Super Bowl Breakfast.

### TASTE OF THE NFL

**Feb. 1 • The Diplomat Beach Resort • 7 p.m.**

Taste of the NFL is a strolling food and wine event held on the eve of the Super Bowl. More than 32 restaurant stations, representing each NFL franchise, provide fabulous food and wine pairings for guests to sample. There is also a current NFL player or alum seated at each food station. Guests can enjoy getting photos with and autographs from the celebrity chefs and players. Attendees also have the opportunity to bid on hundreds of one-of-a-kind sports and entertainment items, gorgeous jewelry, and fabulous getaways in a silent auction. The evening concludes with entertainment from a nationally acclaimed performer. For more information, visit **tasteofthenfl.com**.

**Taste of the NFL** has been working to kick hunger for over 25 years.

Gerardo Mora/Getty Images

## PARTICIPATE
### KICKOFF TO REBUILD

**Jan. 31 • West Coconut Grove • 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Kickoff to Rebuild is an annual Super Bowl-sanctioned event hosted by Rebuilding Together, a leading national nonprofit with a mission to repair the homes of people in need and revitalize communities. Through this initiative, Rebuilding Together has repaired 158 homes, engaged more than 5,000 volunteers, and invested more than $5 million in communities nationwide. For Super Bowl LIV, Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, along with supporting community and corporate partners, will provide critical repairs for nine homes in West Coconut Grove, one of Miami's oldest neighborhoods. Assisting in these efforts will be Pro Bowl running back and Coconut Grove native Frank Gore, other current NFL players, local contractors, community members, and volunteers. Learn more at **rebuildingtogether.org**.

**Rebuilding Together has engaged** more than 5,000 volunteers for its annual Kickoff to Rebuild projects.

Heidi Gelhausen

### 1ST AND FUTURE

**Jan. 31 • Miami Beach Convention Center • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

1st and Future is the annual Super Bowl competition designed to spur innovation in athlete safety and performance. It will take place at the Miami Beach Convention Center, two days before Super Bowl LIV.

***NFL GameDay Morning*** was onsite at Super Bowl LIII with (left to right) Rich Eisen, Steve Mariucci, Kurt Warner, Usain Bolt, and Michael Irvin.

Courtesy of Ben Liebenberg

# NFL Network: We're Live from Miami

**NFL NETWORK IS YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL THINGS SUPER BOWL LIV.** For the 17th year, NFL Network is providing on-location wall-to-wall Super Bowl coverage. In celebration of the NFL's 100th season, the network is offering more than 80 hours of live Super Bowl Week programming starting Monday, Jan. 27, through Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 2.

On Super Bowl Sunday, *NFL GameDay Morning* is live from Hard Rock Stadium and South Beach with more than eight hours of coverage starting at 9 a.m. ET leading up to the big game, hosted by Rich Eisen, Kurt Warner, Michael Irvin, Steve Mariucci, Ian Rapoport, Cynthia Frelund, and others. Following the game and live from the field, *NFL GameDay Prime* provides over two hours of postgame analysis and interviews with the Super Bowl LIV champions.

Throughout the week, wake up with *Good Morning Football* (Monday-Friday at 7 a.m.) hosted by Kay Adams, Nate Burleson, Peter Schrager, and Kyle Brandt. *Super Bowl Live* (Monday at 4 p.m.; Tuesday at 11 a.m.; Wednesday-Thursday at 10 a.m.; Friday-Saturday at 1 p.m.) provides daily updates, analysis, interviews, and practice reports from South Beach, Radio Row, and the Super Bowl Experience. Recap the day's action each evening with *NFL Total Access* (Monday at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 10 p.m.). From Thursday to Saturday, *Good Morning Football* and *NFL Total Access* will be live from South Beach.

Live from Marlins Park, NFL Network provides complete coverage of Super Bowl Opening Night presented by BOLT24 on Monday, Jan. 27, starting at 7 p.m., as the Super Bowl teams address the media for the first time in Miami.

NFL Network will air the two-hour premiere of *Indivisible with Nate Boyer* on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. NFL Network will offer the players' perspective leading up to the game with Super Bowl editions of *NFL Players Only* on Thursday and Friday at 9 p.m.

*Super Bowl Live* on Saturday will feature live updates from the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2020 Selection Meeting from 1-7 p.m., followed by *Super Bowl Saturday Night* at 7 p.m. as the hours count down to Super Bowl Sunday.

For more programming information and a full list of NFL Network's broadcast team, please visit **nfl.com/nflnetwork**. For the latest updates, follow **@NFLMedia** on Twitter.

## NFL ONEPASS

Download NFL OnePass for exclusive access to Super Bowl Week events; gameday information; Vince, the NFL's 24/7 concierge; the chance to win prizes; and lots more!

For exclusive access to Super Bowl event content, register for NFL OnePass either within the app or by visiting **nfl.com/onepass/sbliv**.

By registering and checking in with NFL OnePass at Super Bowl LIV events, you can participate in interactive games, have photos and videos saved to a personal landing page and emailed to you, and be entered for a chance to win prizes and tickets to Super Bowl LIV!

### WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- For more information on all Super Bowl LIV events, visit **superbowl.com**
- Follow @SuperBowl and @MIASBLIV, and tag your posts and photos with #SBLIV
- Questions? Tag your posts with #SBQuestions

NFL ONE PASS

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# FOX Is Focused on the Big Game

Joe Buck (left) and Troy Aikman are calling their sixth Super Bowl for FOX Sports.

**FOX SPORTS CONCLUDES** its outstanding 2019 NFL season coverage with week-long, wall-to-wall offerings leading up to its broadcast of Super Bowl LIV, the network's ninth Super Bowl presentation, live from Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. FOX Is Football, as its business entities across sports, entertainment, news, affiliate, and radio come together to provide extensive coverage of the big game.

Leading the action are seven-time Emmy Award-winning play-by-play announcer Joe Buck and Pro Football Hall of Famer and three-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback Troy Aikman, as the pair call their sixth Super Bowl together from the broadcast booth. Buck and Aikman are joined by Erin Andrews and Chris Myers, who will report from the field, and former NFL head of officials Mike Pereira, who serves as the network's rules analyst.

FOX Sports' pregame lineup includes special editions of *FOX NFL KICKOFF* and the award-winning, most-watched NFL pregame show *FOX NFL SUNDAY*. Charissa Thompson hosts *FOX NFL KICKOFF* alongside 14-time NFL Pro Bowler and Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez, four-time NFL Pro Bowler Michael Vick, Super Bowl champion Dave Wannstedt, renowned sports media personality Colin Cowherd, and FOX NFL insider Peter Schrager. *FOX NFL SUNDAY* host Curt Menefee is joined by Pro Football Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw, Howie Long, Michael Strahan, and Jimmy Johnson and FOX NFL insider Jay Glazer, with special reports from three-time Super Bowl champion Rob Gronkowski, Panthers tight end Greg Olsen, and reporter Kristina Pink. Postgame coverage continues on FOX and FS1.

FS1 is televising all its daily studio shows – *First Things First*; *Skip & Shannon: Undisputed*; *The Herd with Colin Cowherd*; *Speak for Yourself with Whitlock and Wiley*; and *Lock It In* – live from South Beach in Miami, beginning Monday, Jan. 27. Special editions of *NASCAR Race Hub* and *WWE Backstage* also originate from South Beach ahead of the big game.

FOX Deportes presents daily Super Bowl coverage on *FOX DEPORTES EN VIVO* and *NFLEROS*, culminating with an eight-hour production on Sunday.

Eric Shanks is Chief Executive Officer & Executive Producer for FOX Sports. Mark Silverman is President, National Networks. Brad Zager is Executive Producer, Executive Vice President/Head of Production & Operations. Bill Richards produces and Stephanie Medina directs *FOX NFL SUNDAY*. Spandan Daftary and Courtney Stockmal produce and direct *FOX NFL KICKOFF*, respectively. Super Bowl LIV is produced by Richie Zyontz and directed by Rich Russo.

## WESTWOOD ONE IS THE RADIO HOME OF THE SUPER BOWL

Kevin Harlan (left) and Kurt Warner

For the 33rd consecutive year and 47th time overall, Westwood One will serve as the exclusive network radio home of the Super Bowl. Beginning at 5 p.m. ET, Kevin Harlan and Super Bowl XXXIV MVP and Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner will call the action to millions of listeners tuned in across 700 radio stations nationwide, in 175 countries, and nearly 250 ships at sea via the American Forces Radio Network. Fans also can hear the broadcast on SiriusXM, via the TuneIn Radio app, and on NFL Game Pass.

This is Harlan's 10th Super Bowl broadcast for the network and Warner's second. Former NFL referee turned rules analyst Gene Steratore will also join the broadcast booth, after serving in a similar role for CBS Sports last season. Former All-Pro offensive lineman Tony Boselli and Laura Okmin serve as sideline reporters. Emmy Award-winning sportscaster Jim Gray hosts the pregame and halftime shows, joined by six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady and legendary wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

Scott Graham and Hall of Famers Terrell Davis and Rod Woodson kick off Westwood One's live coverage from Hard Rock Stadium with *Super Sunday* at 4 p.m. The network's pregame coverage launches at 2 p.m. with *Super Bowl Preview* and *Super Bowl Insider*. Westwood One will also produce *Seven Days to Sunday–The Road to Super Bowl LIV*. This hour-long preview show will air each night during the week leading up to Super Sunday.

Westwood One is the nation's leader in play-by-play radio sports; its other exclusive sports programming includes: the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and Final Four; the NHL, including the Stanley Cup; the Olympics; and The Masters. Howard Deneroff is the Executive Producer of Westwood One Sports. Larry Costigan and Mike Eaby are coordinating producers.

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Paul Spinelli/MP Images

## GAMEDAY FAN PLAZA

GameDay Fan Plaza will be open from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. to all Super Bowl LIV ticketholders after passing through security on Super Bowl Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium. Entertainment includes: pep squads; the first-ever pregame show live from GameDay FanPlaza; unique photo opportunities; postcard-to-home stations; NFL Shop at Super Bowl presented by Visa; and more!

## ON LOCATION EXPERIENCES

The official hospitality partner of the NFL, On Location offers priority access to the stadium and exclusive parties on Super Bowl Sunday. Both a Super Bowl LIV game ticket and an On Location hospitality ticket are required for access into all party venues. All On Location pregame parties are located within the security perimeter at Hard Rock Stadium and will begin at 2 p.m. There will be three open-air parties steps from the stadium and one premium event inside the exclusive 72 Club. **NFLOnLocation.com** has more info on these and other exclusive NFL event experiences throughout the year!

## ALL-TIME TEAM CEREMONY

To culminate the NFL's 100th season celebration, the Super Bowl LIV All-Time Team Ceremony – occurring pregame at Super Bowl LIV – will act as an epic finale, honoring NFL players, Legends, and coaches, and ushering in the next generation of superstars. More than 70 honorees will be present for the ceremony. (See page 110 for the entire All-Time Team.)

# Lovato to Sing Anthem

**MULTI-PLATINUM SINGER AND SONGWRITER** Demi Lovato will sing the national anthem as part of Super Bowl LIV pregame festivities at Hard Rock Stadium.

Lovato is a GRAMMY-nominated singer, songwriter, actress, advocate, philanthropist, and businesswoman. Within hours of the release of Lovato's fifth studio album, *Confident*, the first single, "Cool for the Summer," trended worldwide and hit No. 1 on iTunes in 37 countries.

Her previous album, 2013's *Demi*, featured the lead single "Heart Attack," which earned platinum status just 10 weeks after its release. That was followed by the top-5 radio smash and platinum single "Neon Lights" and her top-10 single "Really Don't Care." The album supported two headlining tours across four continents.

In addition, on behalf of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Christine Sun Kim, internationally renowned sound artist and performer, will sign the national anthem in American Sign Language.

## WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY NATIONWIDE

The 32 nominees for the 2019 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide will be recognized in an on-field ceremony at Hard Rock Stadium prior to kickoff. As the culmination of a weekend-long series of special events, these men and their families will be honored for their contributions to the game and their communities, followed by the introduction of the 2019 recipient. (The full list of nominees can be found on page 185.)

Considered the league's most prestigious honor, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award was first established in 1970 and was renamed in 1999 after the late Chicago Bears running back.

All 32 nominees will receive a donation of up to $50,000 in their name to their charity of choice. The winner of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award will receive a $250,000 donation to the charity of their choice. All donations are courtesy of the NFL Foundation and Nationwide.

## NFL PLAY 60 SUPER KID

Seattle, Wash., native **QUENTIN CORR**, 13, is this year's NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid.

As the winner of the 2019 NFL PLAY 60 Super Bowl Contest presented by Danimals, Quentin was the official NFL PLAY 60 Ambassador during Super Bowl Week and will hand off the game ball to start the second half of Super Bowl LIV at Hard Rock Stadium.

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# Jennifer Lopez, Shakira Set to Deliver the "Show of a Lifetime"

**PEPSI AND THE NFL HAVE COLLABORATED WITH ROC NATION** to bring cultural icons Jennifer Lopez and Shakira together for the first time with their performance during the *Pepsi Super Bowl LIV Halftime Show*.

"Ever since I saw Diana Ross fly off into the sky at the Halftime Show, I dreamed of performing at the Super Bowl," Lopez said. "And now it's made even more special not only because it's the NFL's 100th season, but also because I am performing with a fellow Latina. I can't wait to show what us girls can do on the world's biggest stage."

"I'm so honored to be taking on one of the world's biggest stages in the company of a fellow female artist to represent Latinos and Latinas from the U.S. and all over the world – and to top it off, on my birthday!" Shakira said. "This is a true American dream and we are going to bring the show of a lifetime!"

**Jennifer Lopez** is an award-winning actress, producer, singer, and entertainer who has established herself in music, film, and television and is one of the most influential female artists in history. As a recording and touring artist, she has sold more than 75 million records and most recently completed her global sold-out *It's My Party* tour.

As an actress, Lopez has a cumulative worldwide box office gross of over $3 billion. As an artist, fashion icon, entrepreneur, and a philanthropist, Lopez has been named to the *TIME* 100 list and was chosen *Forbes*' "Most Powerful Celebrity" and *People Magazine*'s first "Most Beautiful Woman in the World," in addition to receiving the MTV Video Vanguard Award and two Golden Globe nominations for her critically acclaimed roles in the box office hits *Hustlers* and *Selena*.

To this day, Lopez remains the only female artist to ever have a No. 1 album and No. 1 movie at the box office at the same time. With a career spanning over two decades at the top, Lopez is cemented in history as a global icon and the ultimate multihyphenate.

**Shakira** is a Colombian singer-songwriter and multi-GRAMMY® Award winner. She has sold more than 80 million records worldwide and has been recognized numerous times for her music, with three GRAMMYs®, 11 Latin GRAMMYs®, and several World Music Awards, American Music Awards, and Billboard Music Awards.

She is the only artist from South America to have a No. 1 song in the U.S., has had four of the 20 top-selling hits of the last decade, and is one of the top-5 YouTube artists of all time. Shakira's most recent album, *El Dorado*, charted No. 1 on iTunes in 37 countries and won Best Pop Vocal Album at the 2017 Latin GRAMMY® Awards and Best Latin Pop Album at the 2018 GRAMMY® Awards. With over 10 billion streams, it is one of the most-streamed female albums of all time. In November 2018, she wrapped her hugely successful *El Dorado* World Tour.

The *Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show* is the world's most-watched musical performance of the year; nearly 100 million viewers tuned in to last year's show featuring Maroon 5, Travis Scott, and Big Boi. The telecast will be produced by NFL Network, with Ricky Kirshner serving as executive producer and Hamish Hamilton as director.

Roc Nation will serve as producers and strategic entertainment advisors of the live performance.

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# KS AND LEGACIES

Michael Zagaris/Getty Images

**FOR 100 SEASONS, THE NFL HAS DELIVERED THE STARS, STORYLINES, AND "SUPER" MOMENTS THAT HAVE DEFINED AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR SPORT. BY JUDY BATTISTA**

A century unspools in a blur of jaw-dropping plays and epic games, the history of the NFL told in a lifetime's worth of highlights.

The Guarantee and The Catch. The Greatest Game Ever Played, Bart Starr's sneak, the Tuck Rule, and David Tyree's helmet. The Immaculate Reception and the Hail Mary.

From Jim Thorpe to Patrick Mahomes, the NFL has matriculated its way down the field for 100 seasons, morphing from a loose coalition of mostly Midwestern teams known as the American Professional Football Association – there was a $100 annual membership fee, but no one is believed to have paid it – into a cultural juggernaut that annually culminates in the nation's most-watched television event, the Super Bowl.

The extraordinary athletes and polished extravaganzas we now enjoy have the humblest and most improbable of roots. It all began with a meeting of 10 pro teams at the Hupmobile auto showroom in Canton, Ohio, in 1920, the first attempt to form a league in which all the teams would follow the same rules. Among those present were Thorpe, who was chosen league president, and George Halas, whose name still resonates throughout the modern game.

Two years later, the APFA would become the National Football League, but even before that, there were milestone moments: player/coach Fritz Pollard of the Akron Pros became the first black head coach; and Halas, a player, coach, and owner, took over the Decatur Staleys and moved them to Chicago, where they were soon rechristened the Bears.

That early incarnation of the NFL bore little resemblance to today's version. Red Grange, the league's first superstar, wore a leather helmet and minimal pads. Teams had fewer than 20 players. There were no playoffs. And the number of teams fluctuated from year to year, a result of the financial instability brought about by one of the country's most tenuous moments. In 1932, during the depths of the Great Depression, just eight teams took the field, and even they struggled to stay afloat.

"He just put everything he had into surviving," Halas' daughter and current Bears owner Virginia McCaskey once told NFL.com.

But 1932 was also the year of two significant developments that provided a link to the modern game. Official statistics were kept for the first time and the NFL's first championship game was held, an impromptu affair after the Bears and the Portsmouth Spartans ended the season tied for first place. Inclement weather forced the game indoors to Chicago Stadium, where the Bears prevailed, 9-0, on a condensed 60-yard field.

In 1933, the league was split into two divisions and, fresh off the success of the previous year's playoff, a championship game was included in the schedule. Halas' Bears again won the title, becoming, along with the Curly Lambeau-led Green Bay Packers, an early dynasty.

Before the 1930s were over, the NFL was starting to look more familiar. The first draft of college players was held in 1936. Attendance exceeded one million fans for the first time in

AP Images

Paul Spinelli/AP Images

**Above:** The NFL's first championship game took place in 1932. **Right:** David Tyree's "helmet catch" for the Giants in Super Bowl XLII is one of the game's signature moments.

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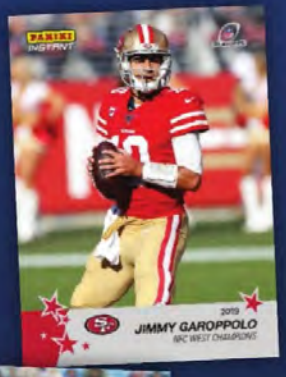

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**Above:** Sammy Baugh (33) was the game's dominant player in the 1940s. **Left:** When the Jets' Joe Namath delivered on his "guarantee" in Super Bowl III, it legitimized the AFL-NFL merger.

1939. Also that year, the NFL was wed to a new piece of technology when a game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Philadelphia Eagles at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field was broadcast on NBC to about 1,000 television sets in New York.

Interest in the pro game was growing as well, with rival leagues starting up (and usually folding) while the NFL continued to scramble for stability. In Pittsburgh, owner Art Rooney renamed his new team the Steelers, and a lifetime before they became a six-time Super Bowl winner, they were allowed to merge with other teams – twice – to stay afloat during World War II. Rosters were depleted during the war, but a wildly versatile player, Washington's Sammy Baugh, was dominating the league, leading it in passing, punting, and interceptions.

The end of the war opened the floodgates for a football transformation. The NFL went truly national for the first time in 1946 when it allowed its defending champion – the Cleveland Rams – to move to Los Angeles. Then, the Rams signed halfback Kenny Washington and end Woody Strode, breaking the color barrier that had been in place for more than a decade. That fall, another upstart league – the All-America Football Conference – began play with eight teams and one transcendent coach: Paul Brown, whose Cleveland Browns won the AAFC's first championship.

Brown's teams went on to win seven championships in all – four in the AAFC and three in the NFL – and he would later play a role in founding the Cincinnati Bengals. Equally impressive, no coach's innovations have made a more lasting imprint on the game. He is credited with being the first to use film to scout opponents, to develop a practice squad, and to install the draw play. A few years ago, New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick –

the rare coach whose accomplishments stack up to Brown's – estimated that 80 percent of what Brown did with his teams 70 years ago is still in use today.

"Playbooks, meetings, his opening speech of training camp, setting a tone for training camp, how things will be run, what is expected from players, what is expected from coaches, the attention to detail," Belichick said of Brown's contributions.

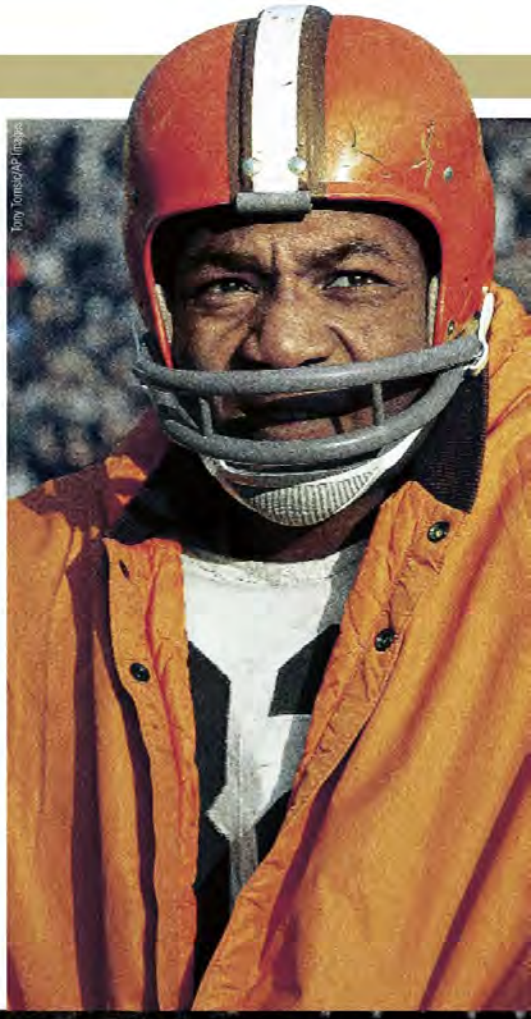
By 1950, the Browns, along with fellow AAFC teams in San Francisco and Baltimore, had been absorbed by the NFL. There would be a much bigger merger still to come, but the league's growth was already undeniable. In 1951, its championship game was televised throughout the country for the first time. And with a phone call by the Baltimore Colts in 1955, the modern NFL got the prototype for its modern quarterbacks when Johnny Unitas was signed as a free agent.

He picked up the torch from retiring Browns quarterback Otto Graham, one of the game's greatest winners. Graham quarterbacked Cleveland to its league championship game in every season of his 10-year career.

Graham's departure signaled the end of the Browns dynasty, even though in 1958, Jim Brown, Cleveland's electrifying second-year running back, rushed for a then-NFL record 1,527 yards. But in the playoffs, he managed just eight yards in a loss to the New York Giants.

That result set up an epic clash between the Giants and the Colts in the '58 championship game. Unitas threw for 349 yards and sent the contest into sudden-death overtime by driving his team to a tying field goal in what is often called the first two-minute drill. Colts fullback Alan Ameche then put an end to the game with a 1-yard touchdown plunge eight minutes into the extra session.

*Sports Illustrated* soon christened it "The Best Football Game Ever Played" and it marked a tipping point for the NFL, the start of the sport's surge in popularity


Tony Tomsic/AP Images

**Right:** Jim Brown set the standard for NFL running backs in the 1950s and '60s. **Below:** Behind the play of Johnny Unitas (19), the Colts prevailed in the famed 1958 NFL Championship Game.

AP Images

DOME EDITION
The Times-Picayune
WORLD
HAMPIONS
The Ravens reign over the NFL with a big win over the 49ers in Super Bowl XLVII

**One of the greatest** linebackers in NFL history, Ray Lewis won two Super Bowl titles with the Ravens and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2018.

Harry How/Getty Images

that took it to the top of popular culture. An estimated 45 million people watched the game on TV, even though, incredibly, it was blacked out in the New York City area. (One of those viewers was Texas billionaire Lamar Hunt, who wanted in on the football craze. Frustrated by his inability to buy an NFL franchise, he instead started the American Football League.)

It fell to a young, new commissioner – Pete Rozelle – to orchestrate the NFL's ride to the top. He was elected in 1960 and his public relations background made him well suited for the moment. The NFL's former longtime public relations executive, Joe Browne, said no one – not in sports or entertainment or any other industry – may have understood the power of television better than Rozelle.

And he knew that the key to get people to tune in around the country was to make every team competitive by ensuring that small market teams received the same amount of money from the blossoming television contracts as the bigger market teams did, so they could all be on equal footing. It was a critical concept that remains the bedrock of the league to this day: On any given Sunday, any team can beat another.

During his 29-year tenure, Rozelle also successfully lobbied Congress to allow the league to sign a contract with a single network to broadcast games (instead of each team having its own TV deal), expanded the league into the South, and, most momentously, negotiated the merger with the upstart AFL, which gave the NFL a presence in even more cities and, among others, brought the larger-than-life Oakland Raiders coach and owner Al Davis into the fold.

The AFL had been a thorn in the NFL's side since its creation and the merger agreed to in 1966 put an end to the competition for top players, which was draining resources in both leagues. It also helped create a unified championship game that came to be named after a popular ball Hunt's children were playing with – the Super Bowl.

Still, the NFL had to convince its fans that AFL teams could be competitive with the more established NFL. Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers had dominated their AFL opponents in the first two Super Bowls, and Super Bowl III seemed likely to produce the same lopsided result. The NFL's Baltimore Colts under Don Shula – still the winningest coach in the game's history – were a juggernaut, going 13-1 in the regular season and battering the Browns, 34-0, in the league title game. They were heavily favored to beat the New York Jets, who had a glamorous quarterback in Joe Namath but not the respect of the more established league.

The legend has only grown since that night, three days before Super Bowl III, when a man at an awards banquet told Namath the Colts were going to whip the Jets. Namath answered by not only saying that the Jets would win the game, he guaranteed it.

"I was responding to a person who was a wise guy," Namath told NFL.com on the 50th anniversary of Super Bowl III. "I was talking to him. And, maybe, to myself. I was talking to some people back home in New York at the time. To let them know what we were going to do."

When the Jets defeated the Colts that Sunday at the Orange Bowl, Namath became one of the game's great stars and the AFL had finally gained legitimacy. Many NFL owners were furious, but Rozelle understood the Jets' victory was a good thing for pro football.

"He said, 'This is what we're trying to sell. Competitiveness,'" Browne told NFL.com.

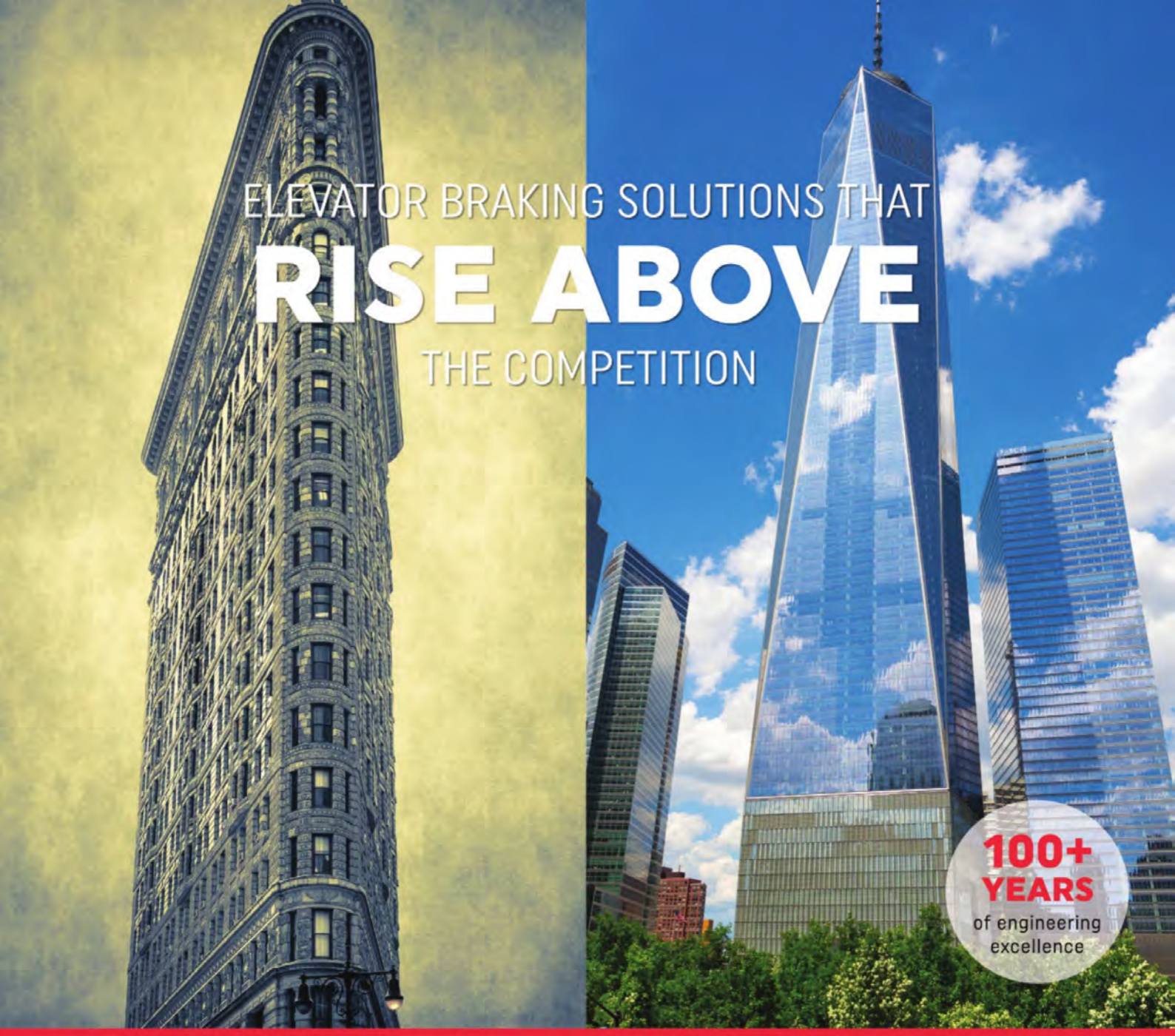
There hasn't been a question about that since. Entering the 2019 season, just four of the NFL's 32 teams had never made it to the Super Bowl, and the football descendants of that meeting in a car showroom a century ago have dazzled us – with dynasties from New England to Pittsburgh and Dallas to San Francisco, and with transformative schemes like the West Coast offense and the 46 defense. Free agency, first earned by players in 1993, has sent star players on the move and challenged the roster builders, buttressing Rozelle's plan for parity and creating the last seismic shift in the league's design.

In its 100 years, the NFL has evolved from three yards and a cloud of dust in a regional league to a quarterback-fueled aerial act that now exports games overseas. In more recent times, it has spawned offensive icons Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, and Walter Payton, and defensive legends Lawrence Taylor, Reggie White, and Ray Lewis.

Through it all, just one team – the 1972 Miami Dolphins – has had an undefeated season and won the Super Bowl.

That season was perfect. And the other 99 were pretty great, too.

***Judy Battista*** *is an award-winning sportswriter who has covered the NFL since 2000. She is a columnist and on-air analyst for NFL.com and the NFL Network.*

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# MEET THE NFL100 ALL-TIME TEAM

**IN CELEBRATION OF THE NFL'S** Centennial Season, a blue-ribbon panel of 26 former coaches, personnel directors, general managers, players, and members of the media combined to select the NFL100 All-Time Team. The team consists of 100 players, with a specific number at each position, along with the 10 greatest coaches of all time. **Rich Eisen**, **Bill Belichick**, and **Cris Collinsworth** were joined by legendary guests each week as they revealed the all-time team in a six-part series, produced by NFL Films, that aired Weeks 12-17 of the 2019 regular season.

## QUARTERBACKS
Sammy Baugh (1937-1952)
Tom Brady (2000-present)
John Elway (1983-1998)
Brett Favre (1991-2010)
Otto Graham (1946-1955)
Peyton Manning (1998-2015)
Dan Marino (1983-1999)
Joe Montana (1979-1994)
Roger Staubach (1969-1979)
Johnny Unitas (1956-1973)

## WIDE RECEIVERS
Lance Alworth (1962-1972)
Raymond Berry (1955-1967)
Larry Fitzgerald (2004-present)
Marvin Harrison (1996-2008)
Elroy Hirsch (1946-1957)
Don Hutson (1935-1945)
Steve Largent (1976-1989)
Randy Moss (1998-2012)
Jerry Rice (1985-2004)
Paul Warfield (1964-1977)

## RUNNING BACKS
Jim Brown (1957-1965)
Earl Campbell (1978-1985)
Earl "Dutch" Clark (1931-1938)
Eric Dickerson (1983-1993)
Lenny Moore (1956-1967)
Marion Motley (1946-1955)
Walter Payton (1975-1987)
Barry Sanders (1989-1998)
Gale Sayers (1965-1971)
O.J. Simpson (1969-1979)
Emmitt Smith (1990-2004)
Steve Van Buren (1944-1951)

## TIGHT ENDS
Mike Ditka (1961-1972)
Tony Gonzalez (1997-2013)
Rob Gronkowski (2010-2018)
John Mackey (1963-1972)
Kellen Winslow Sr. (1979-1987)

## OFFENSIVE TACKLES
Roosevelt Brown (1953-1965)
Forrest Gregg (1956-1971)
Cal Hubbard (1927-1936)
Walter Jones (1997-2008)
Anthony Muñoz (1980-1992)
Jonathan Ogden (1996-2007)
Art Shell (1968-1982)

## GUARDS
Larry Allen (1994-2007)
Dan Fortmann (1936-1943)
John Hannah (1973-1985)
Bruce Matthews (1983-2001)
Randall McDaniel (1988-2001)
Jim Parker (1957-1967)
Gene Upshaw (1967-1981)

## CENTERS
Mel Hein (1931-1945)
Jim Otto (1960-1974)
Dwight Stephenson (1980-1987)
Mike Webster (1974-1990)

## DEFENSIVE TACKLES
Junious "Buck" Buchanan (1963-1975)
Joe Greene (1969-1981)
Bob Lilly (1961-1974)
Merlin Olsen (1962-1976)
Alan Page (1967-1981)
John Randle (1990-2003)
Randy White (1975-1988)

## DEFENSIVE ENDS
Doug Atkins (1953-1969)
Bill Hewitt (1932-1943)
Deacon Jones (1961-1974)
Gino Marchetti (1952-1966)
Lee Roy Selmon (1976-1984)
Bruce Smith (1985-2003)
Reggie White (1985-2000)

## LINEBACKERS
Chuck Bednarik (1949-1962)
Bobby Bell (1963-1974)
Derrick Brooks (1995-2008)
Dick Butkus (1965-1973)
Jack Ham (1971-1982)
Ted Hendricks (1969-1983)
Jack Lambert (1974-1984)
Willie Lanier (1967-1977)
Ray Lewis (1996-2012)
Joe Schmidt (1953-1965)
Junior Seau (1990-2009)
Lawrence Taylor (1981-1993)

## CORNERBACKS
Mel Blount (1970-1983)
Willie Brown (1963-1978)
Darrell Green (1983-2002)
Mike Haynes (1976-1989)
Dick "Night Train" Lane (1952-1965)
Deion Sanders (1989-2005)
Rod Woodson (1987-2003)

## SAFETIES
Jack Christiansen (1951-1958)
Ken Houston (1967-1980)
Ronnie Lott (1981-1994)
Ed Reed (2002-2013)
Emlen Tunnell (1948-1961)
Larry Wilson (1960-1972)

## KICKERS
Jan Stenerud (1967-1985)
Adam Vinatieri (1996-present)

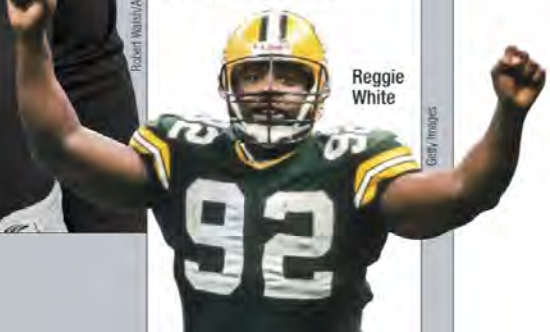
## PUNTERS
Ray Guy (1973-1986)
Shane Lechler (2000-2017)

## RETURN SPECIALISTS
Devin Hester (2006-2016)
Billy "White Shoes" Johnson (1974-1988)

## COACHES
Bill Belichick (1991-present)
Paul Brown (1946-1975)
Joe Gibbs (1981-2007)
George Halas (1920-1967)
Curly Lambeau (1921-1953)
Tom Landry (1960-1988)
Vince Lombardi (1959-1969)
Chuck Noll (1969-1991)
Don Shula (1963-1995)
Bill Walsh (1979-1988)

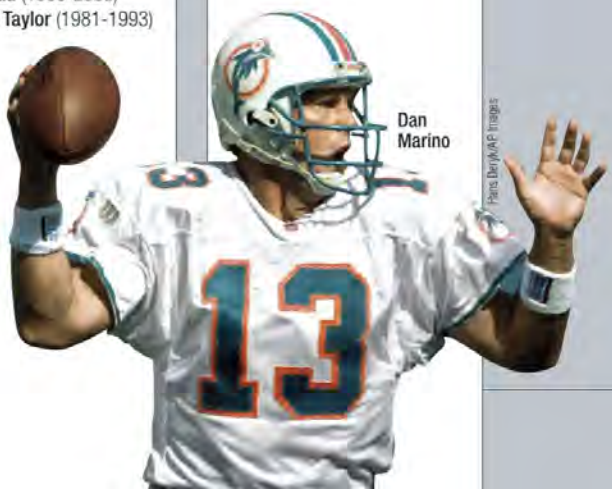
Don Hutson

Robert Walsh/AP Image



Reggie White

Getty Images



Dan Marino

Paris Berkyb/AP Images

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**The Giants' Plaxico Burress** clutches the game-winning touchdown pass that stunned the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

Donald Miralle/Getty Images

# DRIVES of DISTINCTION

## AS THE CLOCK COUNTS DOWN, THE STAKES GO UP. AND ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, THAT'S WHEN THE BEST MAKE THEIR MARCH INTO HISTORY. BY KIMBERLY JONES

The most exciting final chapter of any NFL season is a down-to-the-wire Super Bowl, one that includes a game-winning drive deep into the fourth quarter.

No one knows that better than New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

All six of Brady's Super Bowl wins have been earned with him leading his team to the decisive points in the fourth quarter or overtime. It's a record that may never be challenged; no other NFL quarterback has racked up more than six fourth-quarter game-winning drives in their entire postseason careers. To take it to the next level, even the three Super Bowls that Brady's Patriots have lost were the result of late scoring drives… two of those coming after he had given his team a fourth-quarter lead.

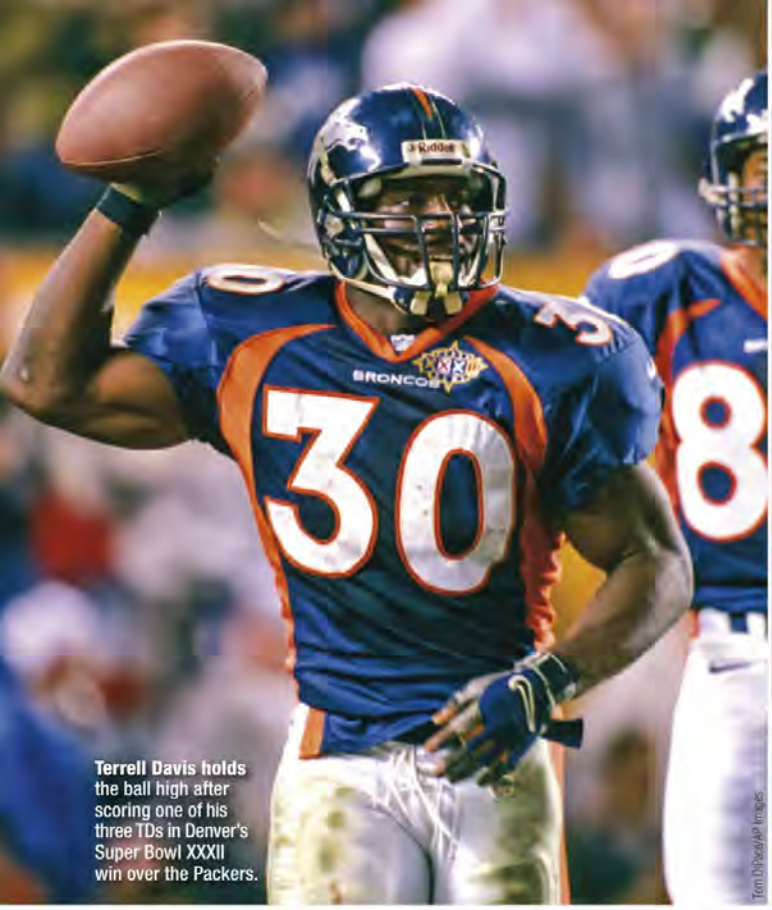
"The Super Bowl is a strange game," Brady told sportswriter Peter King just days after one of its strangest, the Patriots' 34-28 overtime win against the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI. "I've been in a lot of them, and it may go one way and then it may go the other way, and I know at the end of all those games that I've played in, the defenses have a hard time stopping the offense… in every game."

Brady's point is borne out in the numbers. The fourth quarter has been the highest-scoring quarter in 22 of the first 53 Super Bowls. Even more telling is that 14 Super Bowl winners have trailed at some point over the final 15 minutes; another five were tied in the fourth quarter.

History shows the first such fourth-quarter rally taking place in Super Bowl V, when the Baltimore Colts overcame the loss of starting quarterback Johnny Unitas, seven turnovers, and a late 13-6 deficit to edge the Dallas Cowboys, 16-13. This one, though, may deserve an asterisk. The final drive, set up by a Mike Curtis interception, covered all of two plays and three yards before rookie Jim O'Brien kicked his tie-breaking 32-yard field goal with five seconds remaining.

While that stands as the shortest game-winning Super Bowl march, the longest is also probably the most famous. That was the one led by Joe Montana in Super Bowl XXIII. The San Francisco 49ers' signal-caller took the field with just 3:10 to play, his team trailing Cincinnati, 16-13, and the ball on his own 8-yard line.

Victory was within the Bengals' grasp, but when a teammate boasted to wide receiver Cris Collinsworth, "We've got 'em now," he answered



**Terrell Davis holds** the ball high after scoring one of his three TDs in Denver's Super Bowl XXXII win over the Packers.

Tom DiPace/AP Images

**The Rams' Isaac Bruce** heads to the end zone with his 72-yard game-winning touchdown catch in Super Bowl XXXIV.

Timothy A. Clary/AP Images

with the obvious: "Have you taken a look at who's quarterbacking the 49ers?"

Montana, unfazed by his predicament, simply told his teammates in the huddle, "Let's go. Be tough."

The biggest play on the 11-play march came in the toughest spot, with the 49ers facing a second-and-20 from the Bengals 45-yard line. Montana delivered with a 27-yard completion to Jerry Rice.

"You know they have to throw it, they know they have to throw it, and we know they're throwing it to Jerry Rice," recalls Solomon Wilcots, a Bengals cornerback at the time. "Two plays later was the touchdown to win the game."

Rice's grab was the last of his game-high 11 catches, while John Taylor is remembered for his lone catch, a 10-yarder in the middle of the end zone with 34 seconds remaining that put the 49ers over the top, 20-16.

"All I could think was, 'Catch the ball,'" Taylor said afterward.

It was two years later, in Super Bowl XXV, when two fourth-quarter drives provided dramatically different outcomes in the New York Giants' 20-19 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

Then-Giants coach Bill Parcells viewed the game as evidence that "power wins football games" over en vogue offenses like the run-and-shoot and Buffalo's three-receiver, no-huddle attack.

On this day, he was proven right. New York worked 7:32 off the fourth-quarter clock – running the ball seven times on a 13-play, 74-yard drive – before Matt Bahr's 21-yard field goal moved the Giants ahead by a point.

"We knew we could put points on the board and control the clock," said game MVP Ottis Anderson, whose 102 rushing yards helped the Giants' offense keep possession for more than 40 minutes.

Still, Buffalo had a final chance, getting the ball at its own 10-yard line with 2:16 remaining. Soon the Bills were in position to win the game, with Thurman Thomas rushing for 33 yards and quarterback Jim Kelly adding 18 on the ground while also completing two passes to bring the ball to the Giants 29. But Scott Norwood's 47-yard field goal attempt in the final seconds missed the mark.

"If you want to write a Super Bowl script, this is probably what you have to write," Kelly said. "It came down to the last kick."

The Giants' triumph came as part of the NFC's 13-game Super Bowl win streak. It took a late drive by the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII to finally end that run.

Broncos QB John Elway – seeking his first Super Bowl title after three losses – threw only one pass on that decisive 49-yard march against the Green Bay Packers, a 23-yard completion to fullback Howard Griffith just before the two-minute warning. Terrell Davis did the rest of the work, running four times for 21 yards, the last of those a 1-yard TD with 1:42 to play that gave the Broncos the 31-24 victory.

Super Bowl XXXIV was similarly tied in the final minutes, after the St. Louis Rams scored the game's first 16 points and the Tennessee Titans answered with the next 16.

The Rams untied it in one play when quarterback Kurt Warner found Isaac Bruce for a 73-yard touchdown pass with 1:54 remaining. As if that play wasn't dramatic enough, Titans QB Steve McNair countered by masterfully taking his team on an 87-yard march.

Unfortunately for Tennessee fans, they needed 88. The game ended on one of the most incredible plays in Super Bowl history, with Rams linebacker Mike Jones stopping receiver Kevin Dyson just shy of the goal line as time expired. No wonder Jones' nickname became "The Tackle."

"I put my right arm on Kevin and I swung around," Jones told *USA Today*. "I could never figure out why he went down so fast. But looking back at the film, I realized my left hand was on his knee, so he couldn't move. All he could do was fall down."

Rob Gronkowski makes the biggest catch of Super Bowl LIII, setting up the Patriots' go-ahead TD vs. the Rams.

Matthew Emmons/USA TODAY Sports

In Super Bowl XLIII, Warner was on the flip side of a close call. After his 64-yard touchdown pass to Larry Fitzgerald with 2:37 to play gave the Arizona Cardinals their first lead of the game over the Pittsburgh Steelers, another receiver would reverse the outcome. Santonio Holmes' tip-toe catch in the right corner of the end zone was the final play of an electric 78-yard drive that produced a 27-23 victory for the Steelers.

"My feet never left the ground," Holmes said of his 6-yard grab from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. A booth review confirmed the score.

Then there's Brady.

His most recent Super Bowl heroics came a year ago in a 13-3 win over the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII. Neither team reached the end zone for more than three quarters, but then the Patriots struck, their 69-yard march highlighted by Brady's picturesque 29-yard strike to tight end Rob Gronkowski. One play later, Sony Michel ran for a 2-yard touchdown, staking New England to a lead it would not relinquish.

Brady first achieved Super Bowl stardom in his second season (2001), when the Patriots beat the St. Louis Rams, 20-17, in Super Bowl XXXVI. The Rams had just tied the game on a Warner-to-Ricky Proehl TD pass, and with New England and its young quarterback taking possession at their own 17 with 1:21 to play, most were expecting them to settle for overtime. But the Patriots coaching staff, led by coach Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Charlie Weis, had other ideas.

"They had the momentum, and we had to stop their momentum and win the game," Weis said. "We needed to play to win."

**"IF YOU WANT TO WRITE A SUPER BOWL SCRIPT, THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT YOU HAVE TO WRITE. IT CAME DOWN TO THE LAST KICK."**

**– BILLS QB JIM KELLY, ON THE DRAMATIC ENDING TO SUPER BOWL XXV**

And so they did. Brady methodically completed five of seven passes before spiking the ball at the Rams 30-yard line with seven seconds to play. Out trotted kicker Adam Vinatieri, who created his Super Bowl legend by splitting the uprights with a 48-yard field goal, marking the first Super Bowl where the winning points were scored on the game's final play.

Brady and Vinatieri provided an encore two years later in Super Bowl XXXVIII against the Carolina Panthers, the quarterback taking his team 37 yards – all through the air – before Vinatieri made a 41-yard

Zach Ertz dives for the end zone for the touchdown that lifted the Eagles to victory in Super Bowl LII.

Perry Knotts/AP Images

field goal with four seconds to play to give the Patriots a 32-29 win.

Yet, even by Brady's standards, the dramatics in Super Bowl LI stand alone. The Falcons led the Patriots, 28-3, with 2:12 remaining in the third quarter before New England stormed back with five consecutive scoring drives. Three of those came in the fourth quarter – with Stephen Gostkowski's 33-yard field goal followed by a Danny Amendola 6-yard TD reception and James White's 1-yard scoring run. White's touchdown, with 57 seconds left, brought the Patriots within two points. They still needed to make the two-point conversion, which they did on a Brady pass to Amendola that forced the first overtime in Super Bowl history.

New England won the OT coin toss, took the ball, and never even faced a third down on its drive. Brady diced the fading Falcons defense with four completions before White delivered the final blow, a 2-yard run around the right side for the 34-28 victory.

But fourth-quarter drama hasn't always gone in the Patriots' favor.

In defeating New England in Super Bowl LII, Nick Foles was the one who delivered late, leading the Philadelphia Eagles on a 14-play, 75-yard drive that included a fourth-down conversion and ended with his 11-yard touchdown throw to Zach Ertz with 2:21 to play. Before the TD became official, the Eagles – and their fans – had to endure the most critical video replay in Super Bowl history because the ball popped into the air as Ertz crossed the goal line.

"If they would have overturned that, I don't know what would have happened to the city of Philadelphia," Ertz said after the game.

Prior to the Eagles, it was only the Giants, led by coach Tom Coughlin and quarterback Eli Manning, that could claim a Super Bowl victory – two of them in fact – against the Belichick/Brady Patriots. Both were earned with huge fourth-quarter drives.

Super Bowl XLII is considered one of the best Super Bowls ever and remains one of the biggest upsets in the history of professional sports. The Patriots were looking for a 19-0 season of perfection; the Giants were trying to become the first NFC Wild Card team to win a Super Bowl.

The defining play in the game-winning drive? Let's put it this way: David Tyree is asked to this day about his see-it-to-believe-it helmet catch.

"That's called providence," he said, when asked to explain how he was able to hold onto the ball, pressed against the top of his helmet, for a 32-yard gain on a third-and-5 from the Giants 44. "The catch chose me as much as I made it."

One play earlier, Manning also looked for Tyree – and nearly found disaster when his misfire went through the hands of cornerback Asante Samuel, who had 58 career interceptions. If he added one more to that total, the Patriots would have won the game. Four plays after Tyree's catch, with 39 seconds remaining, Manning connected with Plaxico Burress for a 13-yard touchdown that lifted the Giants to the 17-14 victory.

The teams had a dose of déjà vu in Super Bowl XLVI, but this time the Giants' game-winning drive included a more conventional big play – a rainbow 38-yard throw from Manning to receiver Mario Manningham down the left sideline. Eight plays later, Ahmad Bradshaw rushed 6 yards for the game-winning TD. Final score: Giants 21, Patriots 17.

They had foiled the Patriots. Again.

Amid all of these Super Bowl game-winning drives, perhaps it's worth remembering just how special it is to play in the game, let alone win it or prevail in such nail-biting fashion.

Back in 2002, after Brady first became a champion, he sought out his coach. Could he, Brady asked Belichick, skip the team flight home and instead go to Disney World? "Of course you can go," Belichick told him. "How many times do you win the Super Bowl?"

***Kimberly Jones** is an NFL Network reporter and hosts a sports talk show on WFAN (66 AM and 101.9 FM) in New York City.*

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# Building BIG on Ideas

## DOLPHINS OWNER STEPHEN ROSS IS NOW MAKING HIS MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT: STRENGTHENING THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY. BY ANDY COHEN

There are moments, often in private, when Stephen Ross finds the enormity of everything he has accomplished in life hard to believe. His success in business. His impact on so many lives, on so many charitable causes. Owning a football team. Rebuilding a stadium. Creating one of the largest real estate conglomerates in the world. Becoming a driving force in the unifying power of sports to advance race relations.

Even at 79 years old, he looks at his life's résumé and wonders how he has been so fortunate. How could a kid who grew up in Miami Beach, who once upon a time sat in the Orange Bowl stands waving a white hanky with thousands of fellow Dolphins fans, and who had to borrow $10,000 from his mother to start a small real estate company in New York, become one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the world?

How could he be in position to touch so many people, to help so many causes, and to give back to his beloved University of Michigan, its business school now bearing his name? How could he turn that $10,000 investment into a gold mine of opportunities? How could he be sitting here today, the owner of the Miami Dolphins, hosting a Super Bowl in the NFL's 100th season?

"I pinch myself just about every day," Ross admits. "I never thought I'd achieve the success that I've had. I just feel blessed, really blessed."

And then he laughs. "Thank goodness my mother had the money to loan me."

That was back in 1972 when he first started The Related Companies, ironically the same year the Dolphins, now his Dolphins, reached perfection.

"I can still name every player from that starting lineup," he says.

His journey in business began with affordable housing and escalated into projects that included The Time Warner Center and, more recently, Hudson Yards, an iconic $25 billion project that is the largest private real estate development in the country.

The journey wasn't always smooth. His patience was often tested, his vision often questioned. But he never backed down, even at his lowest professional moment, when he was fired back in the late 1960s by an investment banking firm in New York.

"I remember saying to myself that day, 'I can't ever work for someone else again,'" Ross says.

And he never did.

See, Stephen Ross has a catch phrase that applies to everything that he does: "Best in class."

Evan Agostini/AP Images

That's what he strives for in business and that's what he strives for as owner of the Miami Dolphins. If he's going to do something – rebuild a stadium, give back to the community – he's going to go all out. No short cuts. No excuses. Do it one way: the best way.

This is a man who paid $500 million out of his own pocket to turn Hard Rock Stadium into a state-of-the-art facility, a move that had everything to do with the Super Bowl returning to South Florida for the 11th time.

"It is a place the Super Bowl will be and should be on a regular basis," he confidently says now.

But Ross' vision was more than just about Super Bowls. He's brought pro tennis to Hard Rock Stadium. He's brought international soccer there. What he has created is a multi-purpose entertainment facility that puts the community in the thick of the conversation for so many major events.

"Everybody recognizes that South Florida is one of the most aspirational places in the world," Ross says. "People want to be here. It has the best weather this time of the year of any place in the country. When you combine that with the excitement of Miami being an international city, it's a natural home for the Super Bowl as well as those other events."

And as much as he is proud of the finished product that is Hard Rock Stadium – the off-the-charts amenities, the high-end scoreboards, and some of the most luxurious seating options you'll find anywhere – his mission won't be complete until the football team he owns matches the quality of his new-look stadium.

Those who know Ross well will tell you it's only a matter of time. He is certainly encouraged to have people such as general manager Chris Grier and head coach Brian Flores running the football operation, and vice chairman, president, and CEO Tom Garfinkel in charge of the business side.

Sue Mitenbuler/Miami Dolphins

**Dolphins owner Stephen Ross** (seen here with former player Jordan Cameron) is deeply involved in projects to improve communities across South Florida.

"I'm most proud of the organization we created," he says. "Everything we have done has been best in class. We have grown the organization and impacted South Florida way beyond football. We have taken a lot of pride in dealing with society and important community issues. What I'm not happy about is our win-loss record since I got here. That will change."

What won't change is the way Ross has embraced the South Florida community, devoting time and resources to a long, impressive list of charities – including more than $32 million raised for cancer research by the Dolphins Cancer Challenge. But it's not only that. The Dolphins stand at the front of the line when it comes to helping local high schools and families in need of assistance and working with the area's youth in a variety of impactful ways.

"When I bought the team, I realized the responsibility of an owner was to enhance the community and what a team means to the community," Ross says. "That's what I've tried to do."

And then there is RISE (the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality), designed to serve as a vehicle to help use the unifying power of sports to advance race relations everywhere. Creating a path for change and open dialogue. Bringing people of all walks of life together. Drawing attention to sensitive issues that need to come to the forefront. Finding solutions for prejudice and social injustice. Ross has constructed many things in his life; if he can build this metaphorical bridge, it may be his greatest achievement.

"Racism has always been something that's bothered me greatly," Ross says. "But I wasn't sure of the role I could play. When I saw I could help bring sports together with some of the racial issues facing our society, I helped create RISE.

"It wasn't that the Miami Dolphins had a problem. It wasn't that the NFL had a problem. It was that the country had a problem. Sports were a way to bring it all together."

Ross understands that it's a major undertaking, that there are those who believe the challenge is too imposing and that there aren't enough hours in his day to devote the time and effort that it needs. But he isn't fazed.

"I live for challenges," Ross says defiantly. "They drive me."

And they help define who he is and what his priorities are, especially at this stage of his life. He has a loving wife in Kara Ross, a New York jewelry designer, and four children. He spends his time between homes in Palm Beach and New York, never misses a Dolphins game, and has caring friends and an impeccable reputation as both a person and businessman.

With all of that, he is no longer simply driven to build things bigger, higher, and better. He wants to make a difference by creating a path for others to follow, never looking back, always searching for a better way, a smarter way.

"I'm always worried about the next thing," he says. "I never spend much time sitting back and saying something is great. I want to move on. I'm trying to help make our city and country a better place. Instead of just running a company and making capital contributions, I'm trying to make a difference in the world."

Best in class. Stephen Ross has spent a lifetime settling for nothing less.

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***Andy Cohen** has covered the Miami Dolphins for the past 40 seasons and is currently a columnist for Dolphins.com.*

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# Where Magic

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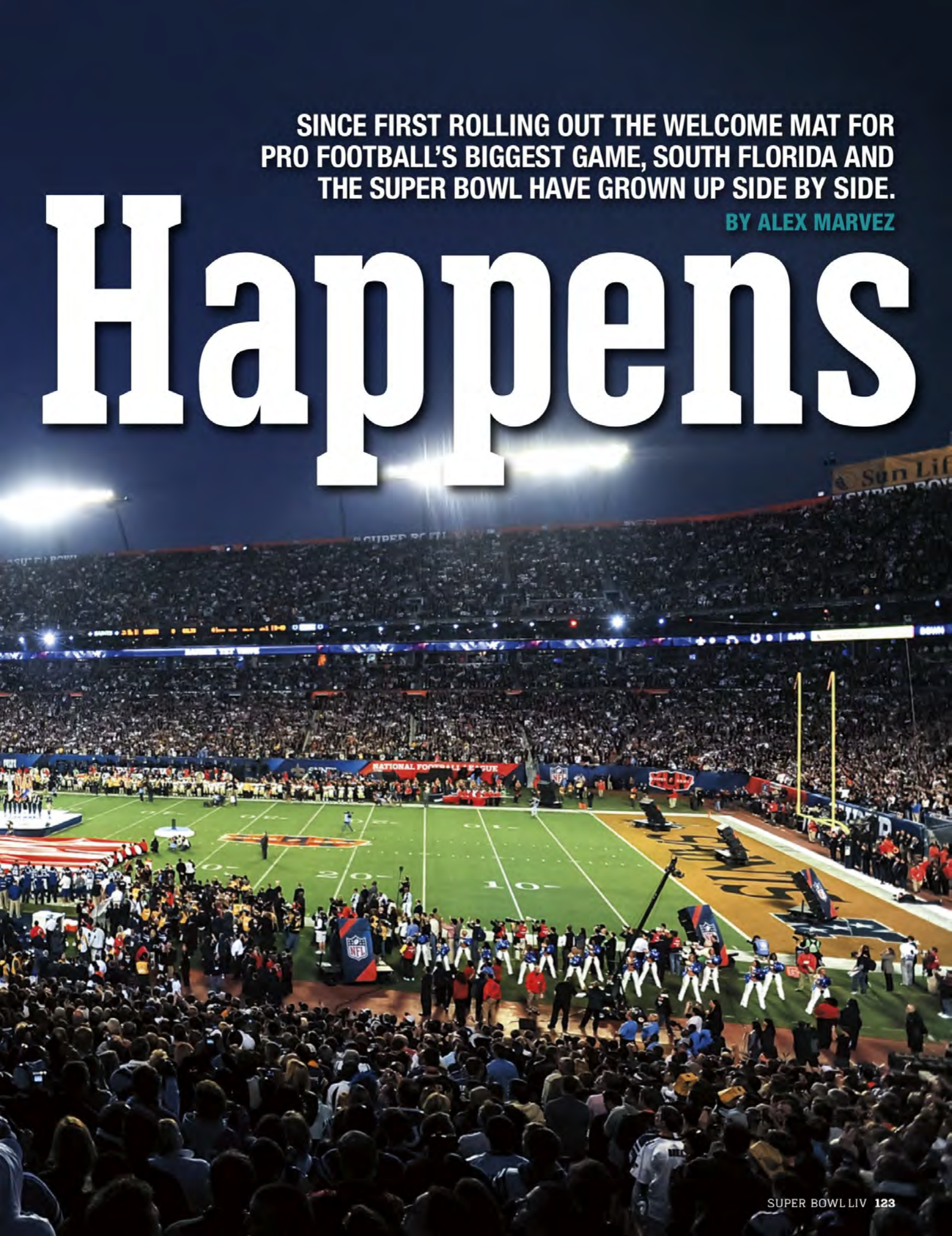
SINCE FIRST ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR PRO FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST GAME, SOUTH FLORIDA AND THE SUPER BOWL HAVE GROWN UP SIDE BY SIDE.

BY ALEX MARVEZ

# Happens



Joe Namath's "guarantee" of a Jets victory over the Colts in Super Bowl III, played at Miami's Orange Bowl, elevated the game's allure and stature.

Walter Iooss Jr./Getty Images

**As it prepares to host an NFL-record 11th Super Bowl,** it's hard to fathom that professional football was once a South Florida failure.

Long before Joe Namath was making victory guarantees and the Miami Dolphins were even a twinkle in the league's eye, there was another entity that lasted just one season before flying away – the 1946 Miami Seahawks.

The upstart All-America Football Conference would ultimately place three teams in the NFL upon its folding, but the Seahawks weren't among them. They were relocated to Baltimore after posting a dismal 3-11 record and drawing crowds that never rose above 7,500 fans following the club's Orange Bowl debut.

One of the AAFC's biggest concerns about viability in South Florida was market size, with the city of Miami and surrounding area then ranking in the 40s nationally in terms of population.

Those worries have long since passed with Miami-Dade now seventh among all U.S. counties, with 2.76 million residents. The same goes for apprehension about the sport's sustainability, even in a community where 128 different languages are spoken in households across the region.

By playing five of the first 13 Super Bowls in South Florida, the NFL gained recognition and acceptance in a locale where the sport of football itself was popular on the high school and college levels, but foreign to many of the international newcomers to the area. The Dolphins' success in the early 1970s, along with outreach to the large Hispanic community, helped sow the seeds that the other "futbol" had planted.

Don Shula witnessed that boom first-hand. He was on the Orange Bowl sideline coaching the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III before moving to South Florida permanently two years later to lead the Dolphins and ultimately set the NFL's all-time record for wins with 347.

"When people here saw the excitement surrounding each of those Super Bowls and the large number of fans around the world who traveled here the week of the game, they understood the importance of the Super Bowl – not only in sports, but in our overall culture – and felt that it was truly a special event," Shula explains.

"For those seven days, everyone in Miami, no matter what their background, became football fans. That certainly helped build a bigger fan base locally for the NFL as well," he adds.

Research conducted by the Dolphins shows that 68 percent of their current fan base is comprised of minorities. That includes a 40-percent base of Hispanics, two times greater than that of the average NFL team.

"Part of the assimilation for Hispanics and just about everybody else from another country moving here was getting interested in football," says Bill Van Smith, a lifelong South Florida resident who has spent more than 40 years as a writer and editor in the *Miami Herald* sports department.

"There's an immersion for people who move into a community with an NFL team. They get totally absorbed in it and it does well for the most part."

Besides local support, South Florida's standing as one of the world's most popular vacation destinations has helped it eclipse New Orleans (10) as the region with the most Super Bowls. There are three international airports and more than 50,000 hotel rooms available in the three counties within a one-hour drive of Hard Rock Stadium. The area also is well-heeled to host the large-scale gatherings associated with the game, including the Super Bowl Experience and other lead-in events, which now draw in excess of 200,000 attendees.

Although the Dolphins had already started playing two seasons earlier

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**Herb Adderley (26) provided** a big moment for the Packers in Super Bowl II, the first played in Miami, with his interception return for a touchdown.

Getty Images

**Peyton Manning and the Colts** ruled Super Bowl XLI by beating the Bears at what is now Hard Rock Stadium.

Jeff Haynes/Getty Images

(as an expansion team in the American Football League), the NFL's love affair with South Florida truly began in January 1968 on the heels of the first Super Bowl failing to sell out the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The Super Bowl II matchup between Green Bay and Oakland attracted 75,546 fans to the Orange Bowl – roughly 14,000 more than what the Packers drew the previous year against Kansas City.

During an era when tickets were more readily available and affordable to the average NFL fan, Miami's exotic appeal undoubtedly helped draw tourists to the early Super Bowls. Some would later make South Florida their home.

"For some fans in the Midwest and Northeast, it was, 'Let's go down to Miami because of the sunshine and heat,'" longtime NFL executive Joe Browne says. "In those days, the NFL wasn't sure if Miami was pro football country. Now you know that it is."

Another major change: The Super Bowl is no longer just a game but an entire week of public and private celebrations that fit South Florida to a tee.

Nat Moore saw that shift firsthand. He played football at Miami Edison High School in the 1960s, was a Dolphins wide receiver for 13 years (1974-86), and now works as a team executive.

"The Super Bowl has turned into the world's greatest party," Moore says. "The game from what it was in the 1970s and '80s is almost anti-climactic because there are so many things going on. Where better to host a party of this size than right here?"

But being a tropical paradise doesn't guarantee an automatic Super Bowl bid. Stadium issues dissuaded the NFL from staging the game in South Florida for long stretches on two separate occasions.

The first came in the mid-1980s when then-Dolphins owner Joe Robbie actually lobbied against the Super Bowl's return because he felt the Orange Bowl had become antiquated as a host site. It wasn't until Robbie funded his own self-named stadium for the Dolphins that the NFL returned for Super Bowl XXIII in January 1989.

"It was a bold, controversial stance for my father to take, but I think really the NFL backed him on that by saying it didn't want to go back to South Florida until a new facility was in place," says Tim Robbie, Joe's son and a former Dolphins executive. "My father envisioned building a state-of-the-art facility and obviously hosting Super Bowls was one of the driving forces. Super Bowl XXIII was used as an enticement for people to purchase the original suite and club/suite licenses that allowed us to finance the facility."

Even after Joe Robbie passed in 1990 and the Dolphins were later sold, the Super Bowl returned four more times between the 1994 and 2009 seasons until a familiar problem returned – the stadium had again

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**Stevie Wonder wowed** the crowd in Miami with his halftime performance at Super Bowl XXXIII.

Theo Wargo/Getty Images

**Even in a downpour, Prince** reigned supreme at halftime of Super Bowl XLI.

Kathy Willens/AP Images

**The 1985 ground breaking of Joe Robbie Stadium** – led by (left to right) U.S. Rep. Claude Pepper, Dolphins owner Joe Robbie, Florida governor Bob Graham, and Dolphins coach Don Shula – ushered in the Super Bowl's return to South Florida.

become outdated. Rather than pursue building an entirely new venue, current team owner Stephen Ross bankrolled a $500 million-plus renovation of what is now known as Hard Rock Stadium.

A decade after Super Bowl XLIV, the NFL now hopes to further pro football's local momentum through Super Bowl-related legacy projects. Alexia Gallagher, the NFL's senior director of philanthropy, said some of the money from the $1 million grants awarded by the NFL Foundation and the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee will be designated toward refurbishment of three heavily used playing fields in areas that have produced scores of players at the college and pro levels.

Anna Isaacson, the NFL's senior vice president of social responsibility, says another focus is to expand the league's social justice initiatives in South Florida's "international and diverse community." There also is a tie-in between the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee and Ocean Conservancy to spearhead environmental awareness.

"The whole point is to provide projects and programs that impact local residents for many years to come," Gallagher says.

One early Super Bowl made quite the impression on the chairman of Miami's Host Committee. Rodney Barreto remembers leaving his childhood home in Little Havana and sneaking into the Orange Bowl to watch the New York Jets stun the football world by upsetting Shula's heavily favored Colts.

Barreto is now trying to again secure Miami's spot in the NFL's Super Bowl rotation by helping the city prepare its pitch for the game in 2025, 2026, or 2027. Barreto notes studies that show the Super Bowl makes a $100 million impact on the region as a tourism showcase for what South Florida has to offer.

"I often tell people we're not just the hottest city in America, but in the world," he says.

Barreto won't get an argument from Solomon Wilcots. He is connected with Miami Super Bowls as both a player (Super Bowl XXIII with the Bengals) and sideline reporter (Super Bowls XLI and XLIV).

"It's just the perfect backdrop," Wilcots says. "Obviously, the NFL has to move the game around. But the Super Bowl should always find a home in Miami every four years. Everyone else should fight for one of the other three spots."

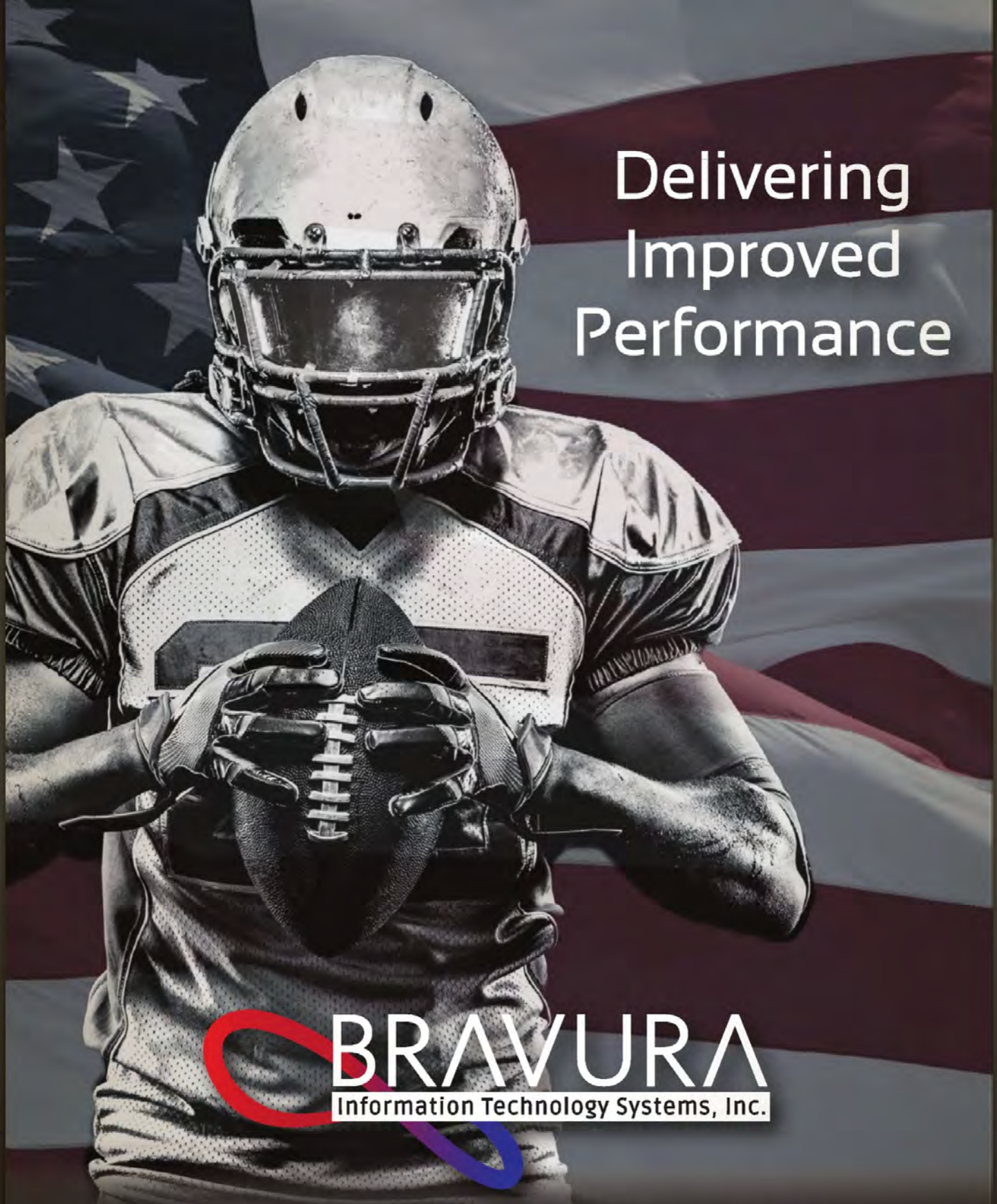
In a perfect world for the NFL, its international reach heading into the league's second century would mirror what has unfolded in Miami.

"It's got this special allure to it because of all those early Super Bowl games in Miami and seeing the city expand with the game – both at the NFL level and being such an incredible high school and college football town," says Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president of club business and league events.

"When the owners decided to culminate our 100th season in Miami, it felt incredibly natural because of all the history and the incredible diversity, which represents who we are as a league, and it being such a football hotbed."

And it's only getting hotter.

***Alex Marvez** is a SiriusXM NFL Radio host, NFL journalist for 25 seasons, and former Miami resident who covered the Dolphins from 1999 to 2007.*

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**When Troy Aikman joined the Cowboys** in 1989, they were near the bottom of the NFL. But by the end of the 1995 season, he had led them to three Super Bowl titles.

USA TODAY Sports

## THE STEELERS, 49ERS, COWBOYS, AND PATRIOTS HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH SUPER BOWL SUCCESS. BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY.

BY JEFFRI CHADIHA

# DAWN OF THE DYNASTIES

Dwight Hicks couldn't believe it. He was a second-year safety for the San Francisco 49ers at the time, a player who'd been cut twice and was thankful to have a job, even with one of the worst teams in the NFL.

However, when Hicks watched the team's offense run a basic play in practice in 1980 – quarterback Joe Montana completed a pass to wide receiver Dwight Clark on a crossing route – he was stunned by coach Bill Walsh's response. Hicks never had seen an offense ordered to run a play again after successfully executing a call.

Before his players broke the huddle, Walsh told Montana to throw right after Clark cut and took two more steps into his pattern. Walsh believed the linebacker that Montana had been trying to fool with a play-fake would only be deceived for so long. Simply put, if Montana didn't unleash his pass quicker, that same linebacker would break up the play.

"That moment said a lot about Bill," Hicks says. "It told you about his precision and his ingenuity and how he expected us to play."

That play also said plenty about how a true NFL powerhouse evolves. That 49ers team would go on to become one of four dynasties in the league's Super Bowl era, joining Pittsburgh, Dallas, and New England. Most football fans know plenty about the glory days of these franchises, how they've combined to win nearly 42 percent of the 53 Super Bowls played (22 Lombardi Trophies in all). What's often overlooked, however, is what happened before those teams became such dominant forces.

They all overcame years of frustration by doing exactly what Walsh preached that day in practice – by literally taking nothing for granted.

"If you look at the dynasties in the Super Bowl era, they all came down to two things – the commitment of the owner and the stability of the organization," explains Randy Cross, who played center and guard for the 49ers from 1976-88. "The teams that have won a lot throughout the years have had a decided advantage. From top to bottom, they were just better."

This isn't a story of how four different franchises terrorized the league in their respective eras. It's about the underrated moments that put them in those positions in the first place.

## The Steelers Start to Surge

Andy Russell never thought he'd be asked to do some offensive coaching. He made his name as a hard-nosed linebacker, one that Pittsburgh fans adored during his 12-year career. That's why he was surprised when Steelers coach Chuck Noll asked him to meet with quarterback Terry Bradshaw midway through the 1972 season. The Steelers were on their way to their first winning record in eight years, but Noll had grown tired of Bradshaw's improvising.

"Chuck wanted me to talk to Terry because I was a captain and Terry wasn't doing what Chuck wanted," Russell recalls. "But I felt weird about it. I told Terry that Chuck just wanted him to give the ball to (running back) Franco (Harris). We didn't need him attempting 70-yard passes on first down. Terry just laughed."

Bradshaw eventually did buy into Noll's thinking. So did every other player who wound up helping the Steelers claim four Super Bowl championships between 1974 and 1979. Yet Bradshaw's growth from erratic gunslinger to reliable signal-caller wasn't the only problem Noll needed to fix. A defense that became known as the vaunted "Steel Curtain" was even more of an issue.

Harry Cabluck/AP Images

AP Images

**Left:** Steelers coach Chuck Noll (left) and team president Dan Rooney (center) accept the Super Bowl X trophy from NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. **Right:** Coach Bill Walsh (left) and QB Joe Montana were key to the 49ers' rise to dominance in the 1980s.

The Steelers lost the 1972 AFC Championship Game to Miami after the Dolphins gashed them for 193 rushing yards. They lost to Oakland in the divisional round the next season while giving up 232 yards on the ground. Despite all their talent on defense – including defensive tackle Joe Greene, cornerback Mel Blount, and linebackers Russell, Jack Lambert, and Jack Ham – the Steelers couldn't stop opponents in the biggest moments.

That all changed late in 1974 when Noll and his assistants installed the stunt 4-3 defense.

"We kept it under wraps until we got into the playoffs," Greene says. "The first time we used it, we held O.J. Simpson to 49 yards (in the divisional round). That was the catalyst that told us we had to keep using the system."

The Steelers allowed only 46 *total* rushing yards in their next two postseason wins that year, including just 17 against Minnesota in their Super Bowl IX victory. Both Greene and Russell admit that the maturation from joke to juggernaut was gradual in Pittsburgh. However, the Steelers exploded once they fused exceptional talent with dependable schemes.

As Greene says, "The stunt 4-3 was so dominant that nobody could run on us for two-and-a-half years. That gave us the confidence to think we could play against anyone. And we wound up riding it all the way to the end."

## The 49ers Find Their Footing

Walsh knew the 49ers were going to be quite the reclamation project when he became their coach in 1979. What he didn't anticipate was how much of a toll the job would take on his psyche. Midway through an eight-game losing streak in his second year – and after going 2-14 in his first season – his spirit nearly broke.

"I saw him in the building the morning after another loss and he was really down," Cross says. "He just looked at us and said, 'Guys, I don't know how long I can do this.'"

Walsh had what Cross describes as "a psychotic aversion to losing," and that mindset was critical to a 49ers franchise that would win four of its five Super Bowls in the 1980s. Walsh obsessed over creating a team that knew how to win.

As Cross remembers it, Walsh had only seven proven players on offense when he first arrived, while the defensive talent was even more discouraging. By the time Hicks showed up midway through the 1979 season, the 49ers already had given up on 33 other defensive backs that year.

Walsh wasn't daunted by those limitations. He eventually built a roster by finding special

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qualities in players that other teams didn't hold in such high estimation. He drafted Montana, a skinny, athletic quarterback, in the third round of the 1979 draft. He discovered a reliable tight end in Charlie Jones, an underrated running back in Paul Hofer, and a leader in his defensive backfield in Hicks.

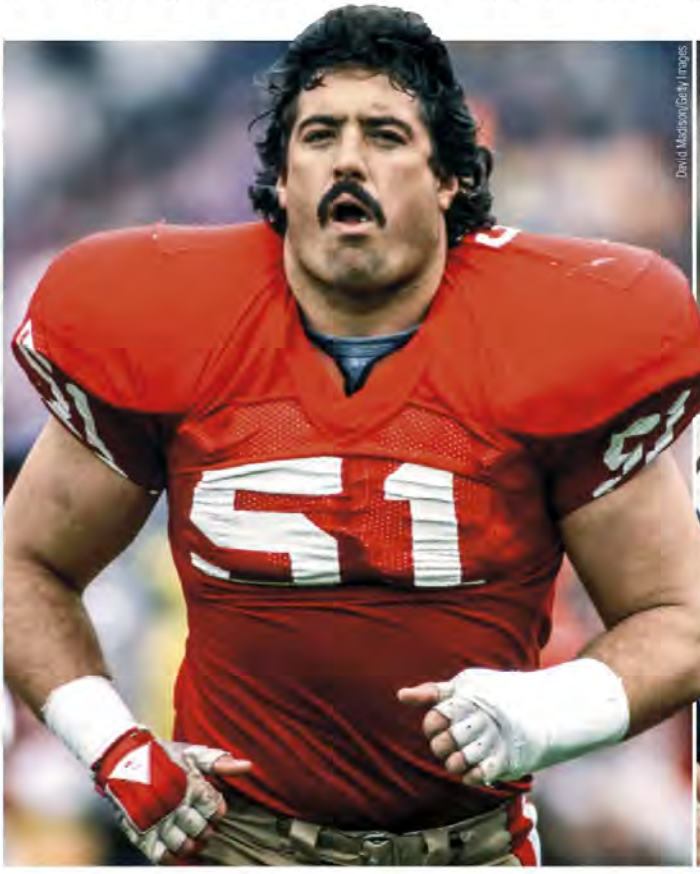
By the time the 49ers found themselves facing a 35-7 deficit against New Orleans late in the 1980 season, the players faced a crucial juncture. So did Walsh.

"Steve DeBerg started at quarterback that game," Hicks says. "But then in walked Joe Montana in the second half."

Even though the 49ers ended that season at 6-10, something changed dramatically within the franchise after that miraculous 38-35 win. It made them believe they could win regardless of the circumstances, which meant even more as they added more talent in 1981.

As Cross explains, "We got into this 'Who's next?' mode of thinking. It came up during our first Super Bowl run, and by the time we left Detroit (after beating Cincinnati in Super Bowl XVI), we were still thinking it.

"We wanted to keep playing. But by that point, there was no one else to beat."



**Left:** Offensive lineman Randy Cross endured losing seasons in four of his first five years with the 49ers before the team stormed to the Super Bowl XVI title. **Right:** One of the back stories to the Cowboys' climb was the hiring of Norv Turner as offensive coordinator in 1991.

## The Cowboys Come of Age

Most people might consider a blockbuster trade in 1989 – one that dealt Pro Bowl running back Herschel Walker to Minnesota in a package that ultimately sent four players and eight draft picks to Dallas – as the seminal moment in the Cowboys' rebuilding efforts. In reality, that was only one key aspect of the team's turnaround.

A more underrated move came two years later, when a soft-spoken assistant coach named Norv Turner took over as offensive coordinator. That lone hire unleashed all the promising talent coach Jimmy Johnson had assembled.

Before Turner's arrival, the Cowboys had an assortment of questions attached to their offense. The system frustrated running back Emmitt Smith. Wide receiver Michael Irvin was still hampered by a severe knee injury suffered during the 1989 season. Quarterback Troy Aikman was struggling as well: He finished 1990 with 11 touchdown passes and 18 interceptions.

"The arrival of Norv Turner after the 1990 season was huge," says Daryl Johnston, a fullback for the Cowboys from 1989-99. "You had to have talent to win, but I'd say the hiring of Norv was bigger. His offense fit our personnel like a glove."

Turner believed in a strong running game, so he set his sights on turning Smith into a dangerous presence behind a mammoth offensive line. He tutored Aikman on how to be a Pro Bowl quarterback and utilized an assortment of dependable receivers that included Irvin, Alvin Harper, and tight end Jay Novacek. Instead of flailing around for an identity, the Cowboys morphed into a consistent problem for opponents. They were going to run the ball down your throat, kill you with play-action, and rarely put their aggressive defense in bad positions.

That formula set the tone for plenty of

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optimism in 1991. The Cowboys could really see themselves maturing in Week 12 of that season, when they faced the undefeated Washington Redskins on the road and pulled off a 24-21 upset of the eventual Super Bowl champions. One year later, they started a run that saw them win the Super Bowl three times in four seasons.

"You could see the growth," Johnston recalls. "You could see we had the talent, but there was more to our run than that. People talk about your football family being your second family. That's what we had in Dallas."

## The Patriots Produce a Winner

Damien Woody sensed he was in for a challenge when coach Bill Belichick opened his first training camp with a no-nonsense speech.

"He told us there was no light at the end of that tunnel," says Woody, who played center for New England from 1999-2003. "He said we shouldn't ask for breaks because there would be none, and we just had to put our heads down and go.

"I was in my second year. I was thinking, 'What are we about to get into here?'"

Woody and his teammates learned fast during that 2000 season. Belichick's first training camp was so grueling that Woody says, "It seemed like we had veterans retiring every day."

Those departures allowed Belichick to clean up the team's salary cap mess and find slots for players he knew best. Within a year, veterans like Bryan Cox, Roman Phifer, and Anthony Pleasant started showing up on the roster.

Belichick was even more fortunate when he discovered an unheralded quarterback named Tom Brady, who he took in the sixth round of the 2000 draft. Brady's intangibles kept him around as the fourth-string quarterback when New England finished 5-11 that first year. A year later, after a brutal hit injured starter Drew Bledsoe, Brady became the team's top signal-caller.

Brady's first start produced a 44-13 victory over Indianapolis. That win ultimately put the Patriots on a run that ended with them beating the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.

"Once we beat Peyton Manning and that high-flying offense, that was our validation," Woody says. "We had put in all that work beforehand and it was finally coming together."

The Patriots won three Super Bowls between 2001 and 2004. They've also won three of the last five played, providing the blueprint of how to build and maintain a dynasty in today's game.

Rick Stewart / Getty Images

Peter Mullin/Getty Images

**Left:** Center Damien Woody was in on the ground floor of the Patriots' dynasty, winning two Super Bowl titles. **Right:** Ty Law celebrates his interception-return touchdown for the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVI, when the franchise won the first of what's now six championships.

"Football is so different now," Hicks says. "Our dynasty was more like Pittsburgh's because there wasn't a salary cap. New England has been able to win so much because they've gotten guys who can fit into a system.

"That's the real recipe for a dynasty: Get the right players, keep distractions to a minimum, and find a way to play together."

*__Jeffri Chadiha__ is a senior writer for NFL.com and an on-air talent for NFL Network. He also has worked for ESPN,* Sports Illustrated, *and co-authored one book.*

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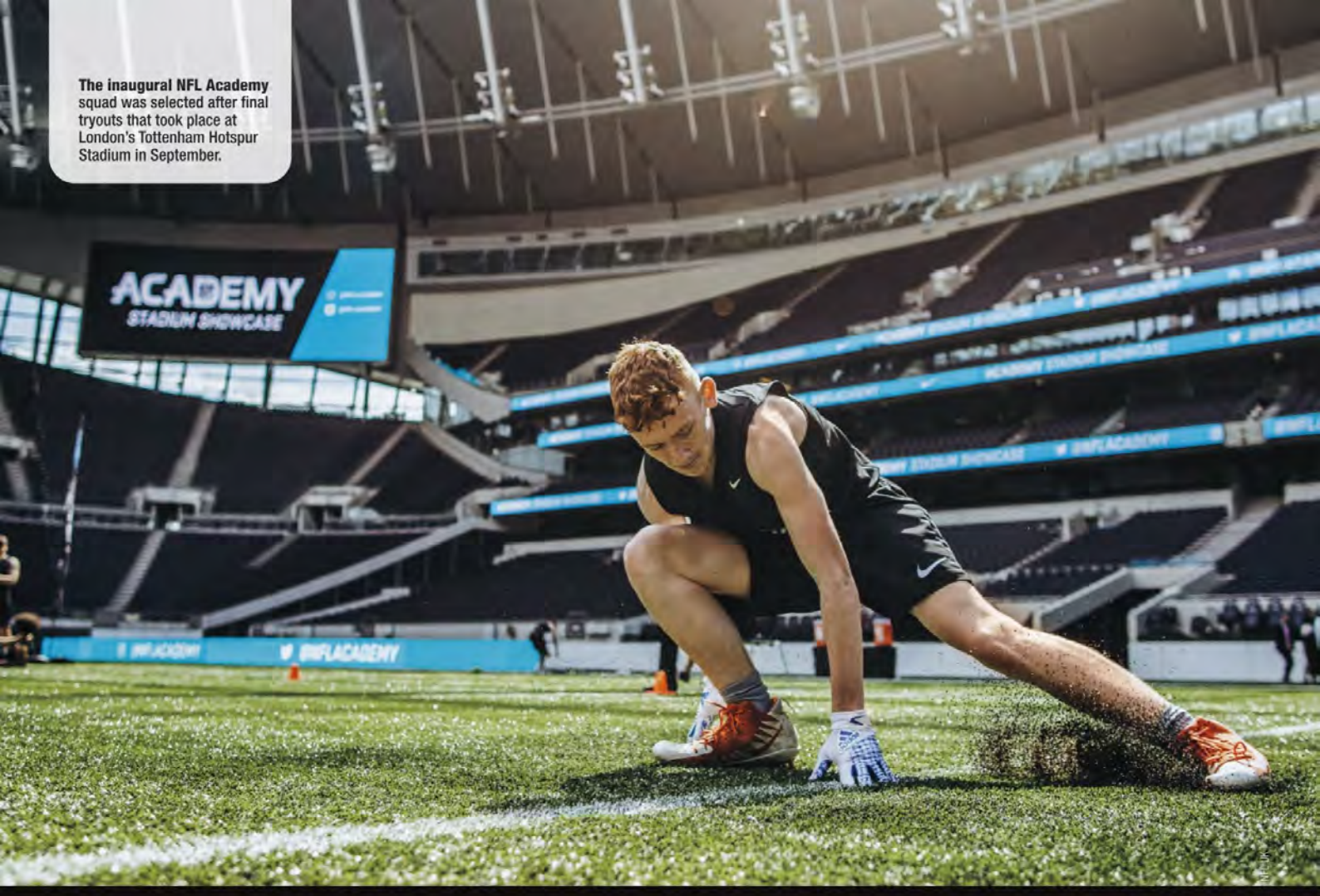


**The inaugural NFL Academy** squad was selected after final tryouts that took place at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in September.

# BRIDGE TO THE NFL

**AS THE NFL KICKED OFF ITS 100TH** season with a historic matchup between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears at Chicago's Soldier Field in September, a new chapter in football history was being written more than 4,000 miles away in London.

While all eyes were on the action in the United States, 87 teenage athletes were coming together on the football field for the first time as the inaugural NFL Academy opened its doors in the United Kingdom.

Based at Barnet and Southgate College in North London and supported by Nike, the NFL Academy offers student-athletes aged 16 to 18 pathways into employment, further education, and, for its elite performers, an opportunity to play college football in the United States. Among those chasing that particular American dream are athletes from across the UK, as well as other European countries such as Austria, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland.

In addition to their regular schooling, the players practice three times per week, attend football classroom sessions, and lift weights in the NFL Academy gym that was officially opened by Hall of Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice.

The NFL Academy coaching staff is headed up by Tony Allen, who has been a professional coach in NFL Europe, led NFL International's player development program, and is one of the most decorated coaches in Europe, winning national championships in three countries.

"We're building something from scratch and it's going really well," Allen explains. "We were initially looking at athletes as opposed to football players, and what that brought us – on final selection – was 32 kids from other sports. What we refer to as crossover athletes. We're all pretty gung-ho about the athletes we have here and now we've got to teach them football."

Teenage athletes from across Europe practice three times per week at the NFL Academy.

NFL UK

# TURE

## ACROSS THE GLOBE, THE NFL CONTINUES MAKING MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN PLAYER DEVELOPMENT TO EXPAND ITS FAN BASE. BY NEIL REYNOLDS

To emphasize that point, the current NFL Academy features several rookies who are new to football – having moved to the gridiron from swimming, boxing, rugby, soccer, judo, power lifting, and track and field.

NFL Head of Football Development Will Bryce, who oversees the NFL Player Pathway Program that has resulted in British defensive end Efe Obada becoming an every-week performer for the Panthers for the past two seasons, believes targeting athletes at a younger age through the NFL Academy is going to result in similar success stories in the future.

"It's huge in their development having exposure to the game at a younger age," Bryce explains. "We learned a lot in our Player Pathway Program with Efe Obada coming to the game so late and then it's such an uphill battle. The learning curve is so steep.

"For kids who grow up in Europe and want to pursue their dream of playing in the NFL one day or attending college in the United States, the pathway [hasn't been] there. This gives everyone an opportunity to be on the same playing field as their American counterparts and to not limit them. We want to give them an opportunity."

While Allen confidently agrees that the NFL Academy can send its best players to US colleges, that is far from being the sole purpose of the program. When asked what success looks like, Allen explains: "To turn out good young men who have a work ethic and the morals that we believe in at the NFL Academy. We can use football as a vehicle to highlight some of the things you need as a person if you're going to achieve in life."

Overseeing the character development program at the NFL Academy is former Great Britain offensive lineman Victor Bamigboye, who once worked as a guard on one of Europe's toughest wings at Pentonville Prison in London.

# BUILDING A STRONG TEAM

Professional football players, members of the NFL Players Association, AFL-CIO, are supported by the more than 100,000 members and retirees of Region 8 International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW).

As our Nation is captivated by the largest sporting event in modern history, there are working families across our Nation that struggle for social justice, fair wages, affordable healthcare, and many benefits that union members enjoy. Through the power of collective bargaining union members improve the lives of all Americans. Together we make our communities stronger by supporting policies which strengthen workers' rights.

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"We want the NFL Academy to provide opportunities for students to succeed in life, and it's about using their athleticism to create these life-changing opportunities," Bamigboye explains. "It's my role to make sure they develop as young men and leaders.

"I've seen football change lives. Only football can bring people from polar opposite ends of the spectrum and put them together to work toward something so important – unity and victory. Our NFL Academy kids stick together in everything they do. They're a family now."

The NFL Academy has attracted plenty of attention in recent months with retired greats such as Rice, Torry Holt, Jim Plunkett, and Dallas Clark attending practices, while the Rams invited the entire Academy squad to their practice in London ahead of their Wembley Stadium clash with the Bengals.

And big-name players have thrown their weight behind the NFL Academy with Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., and Jaguars defensive end Calais Campbell among those on board as official ambassadors.

Mahomes says: "I'm very proud to be one of the first ambassadors for the NFL Academy in the UK. Through the work of my foundation – 15 and the Mahomies – we work to give young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, greater opportunities in life.

"The NFL Academy's objective in combining football and education to do just that is something I'm very excited about playing a role in."

Beckham adds: "The NFL Academy is a fantastic innovation and I feel privileged to be a part of it. I hope I can be an inspiration to young people who want to use football to make better lives for themselves. I'm excited to be able to play a small part in their journey."

It is no coincidence that the NFL Academy is based in North London, as NFL UK Managing Director Alistair Kirkwood explains: "The inspiration for the idea was our long-term partnership with Tottenham Hotspur. As well as playing games at the new stadium, we had a desire to create something meaningful for the community on a year-round basis."

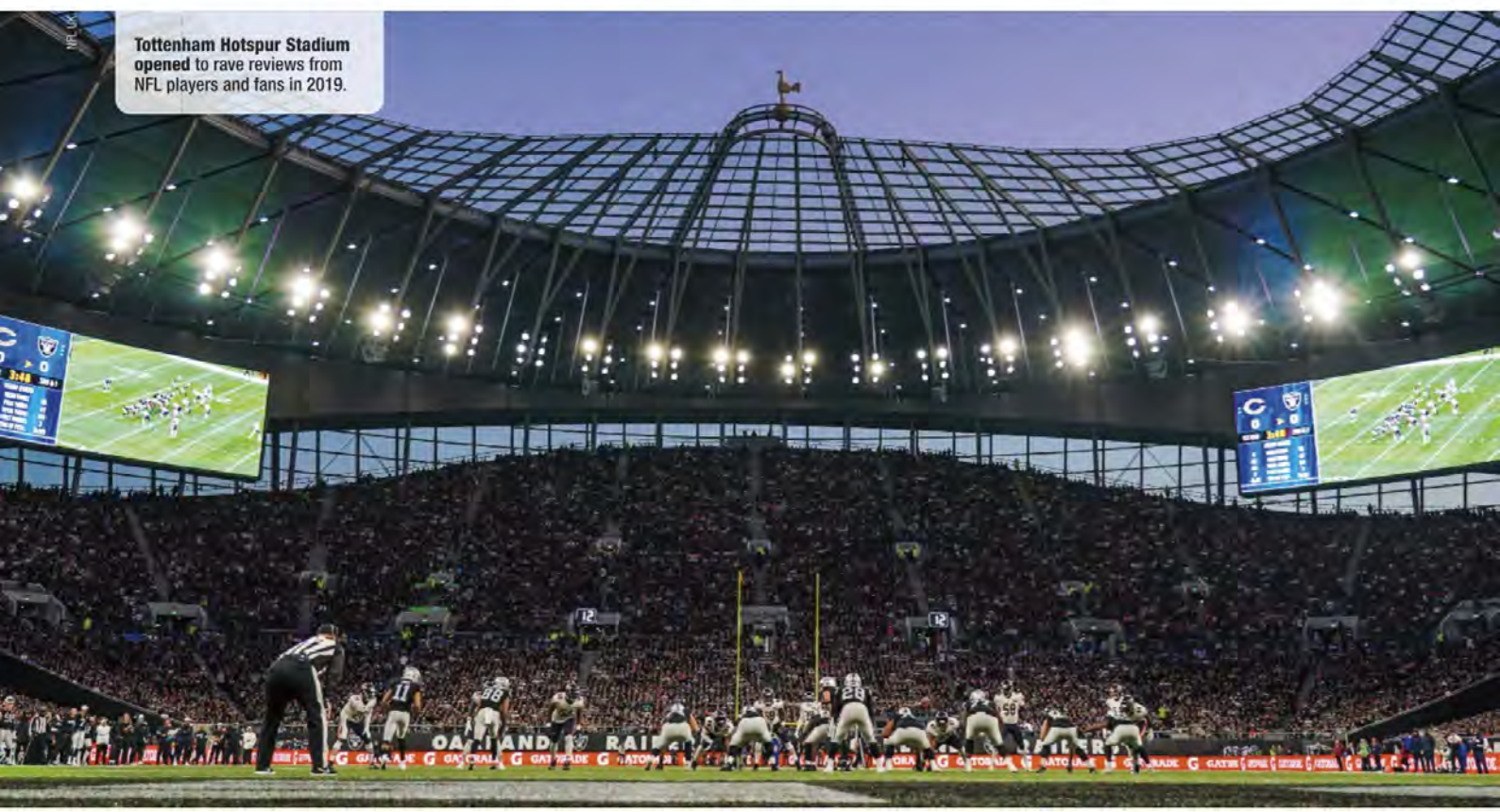
> **"OUR NFL ACADEMY KIDS STICK TOGETHER IN EVERYTHING THEY DO. THEY'RE A FAMILY NOW."** – VICTOR BAMIGBOYE

The NFL began playing games at the state-of-the-art Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in October as the Raiders beat the Bears and the Panthers staved off the Buccaneers. The stunning 62,000-seat stadium is the first purpose-built NFL venue to be unveiled outside of North America.

The stadium – which includes its own NFL locker rooms – features a grass soccer pitch that rolls out to reveal an NFL field that sits five-and-a-half feet below the original playing surface in order to provide outstanding sight lines to fans.

NFL Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy & Growth Officer Chris Halpin states: "The stadium was designed and built with NFL football in mind, both for the players and teams [and] also for the fans.

"The energy, noise, and how close the fans were to the field really reminded everybody of being at a first-class US stadium. And that is a credit to Daniel Levy and Tottenham; and also to Mark Waller and the NFL's International



**Tottenham Hotspur Stadium opened** to rave reviews from NFL players and fans in 2019.

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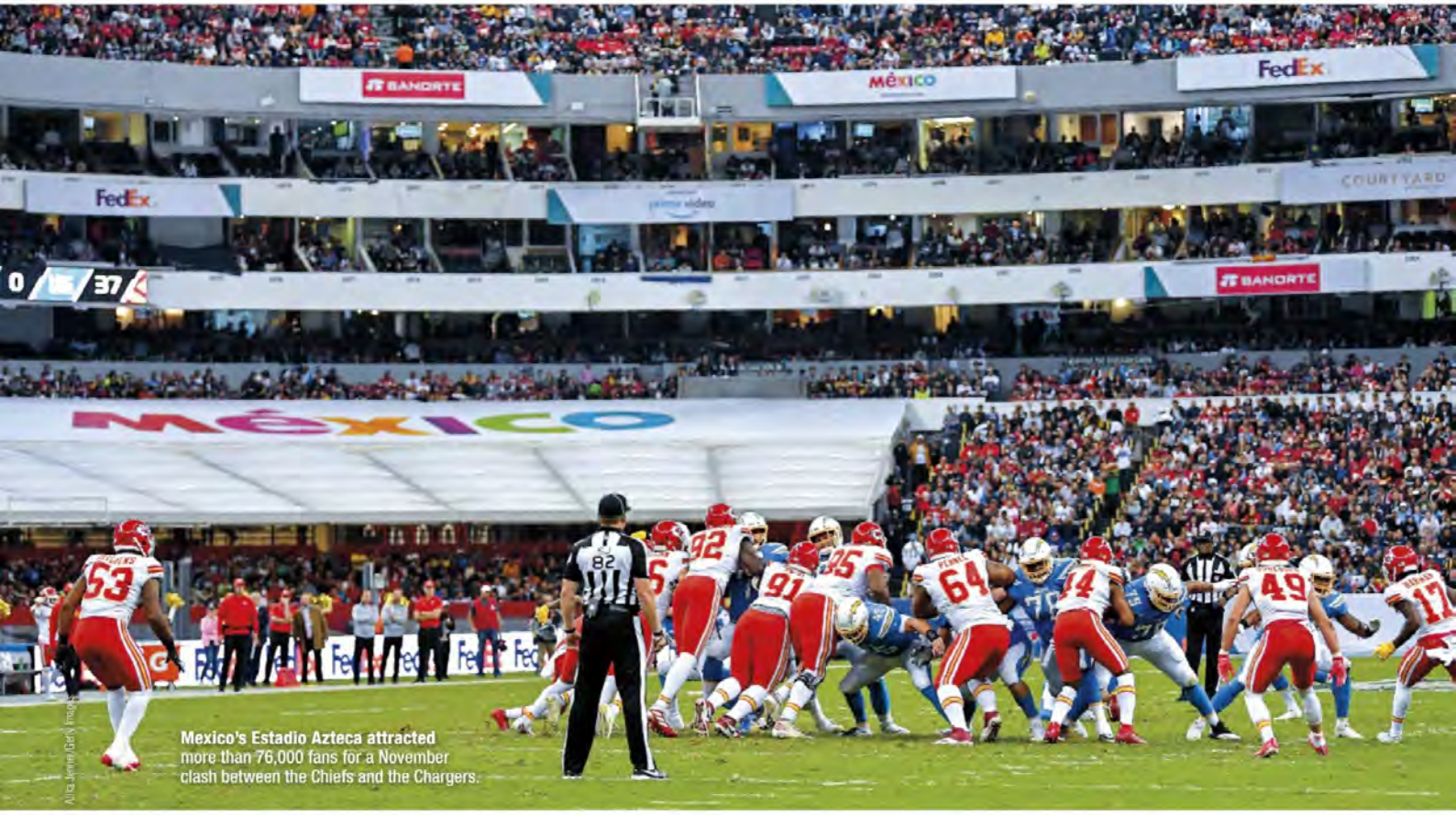



Mexico's Estadio Azteca attracted more than 76,000 fans for a November clash between the Chiefs and the Chargers.

Al Bello/Getty Images

Committee for having that vision, executing it, and having it come to life. Tottenham Hotspur Stadium really allows for a seamless, top-flight experience for the teams while providing the UK fans with the type of NFL experience that only we can provide."

It would be fair to say that those who got to play at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium this season came away impressed.

Raiders quarterback Derek Carr sums it up this way: "Everything about Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was first class. This is definitely one of if not the best stadiums I've ever been to in my life. It's amazing."

Buccaneers running back Ronald Jones was even bolder in his praise, stressing: "I've played all over the United States, but I would definitely say this is one of the best. In the future, we'll see Super Bowls here, as crazy as that sounds. It's just that good of a stadium."

Buccaneers tight end Cameron Brate believes the venue will play a long-term role in the UK, explaining: "This stadium could support an NFL team and it seems like the fan base could as well. As far as atmosphere, it definitely holds water compared to the ones across the Atlantic."

The NFL reported that the Tottenham Hotspur games could have sold out 12 times over. And with a further two sold-out games at the iconic Wembley Stadium, London hosted four regular-season contests in 2019 with the potential for the same again in 2020. Such success is why the subject of a potential London franchise continues to come up in media stories on both sides of the Atlantic.

"The demand from our fans for games and for NFL football in the UK has just continued to grow and is exceptional at this point," Halpin says. "There are a variety of different options we have to serve those fans. Playing a slate of four games has shown there is even greater demand, as have our fan events throughout the year and our player trips.

"It's a credit to the UK that the fan passion is there, and the sustained demand is why there is a discussion about a potential NFL franchise."

Away from London, the NFL returned to Mexico City in November as more than 76,000 fans packed into the Estadio Azteca to see the Mahomes-led Chiefs defeat the Chargers.

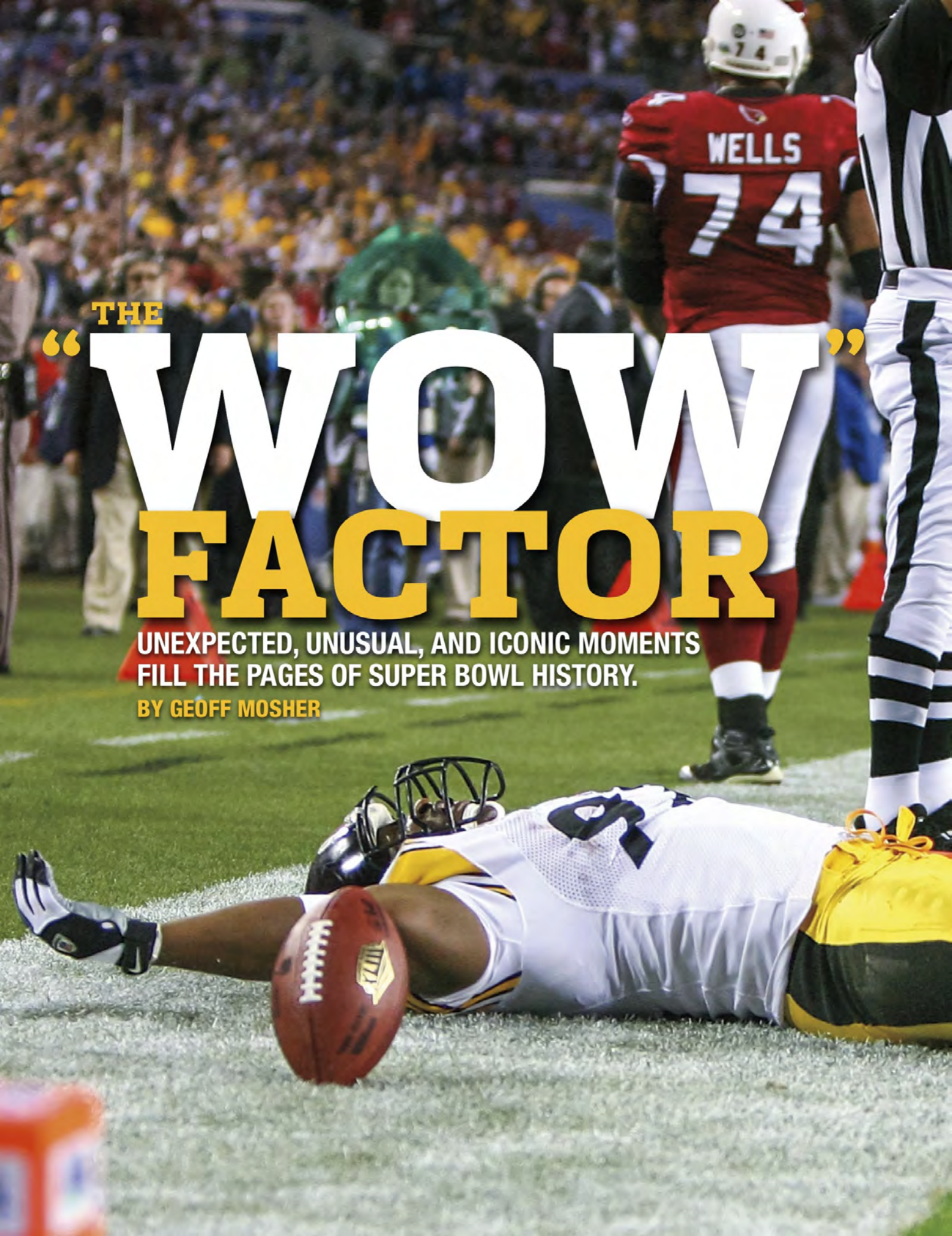
"The Mexico game went really well," Halpin says. "The passion and fandom in that market is exceptional – they love the NFL and we're the number two sport there. The fans celebrated and enjoyed the action from before the game through the final whistle and that was exciting to see. We're very appreciative of our fan base in Mexico."

The five games played in London and Mexico this season are obvious examples of an international strategy that continues to blossom as it extends beyond those actual "in-market" contests.

"The clear recognition from Commissioner Roger Goodell and the NFL owners is that the international model is working," Halpin explains. "We're bringing best-in-class NFL football directly to fans and that is driving fandom, especially when combined with year-round fan and player events and best-in-class media partnerships.

"We're going to continue to do more – our priority markets have been Canada, Mexico, and the UK, and we're going to do even more in Germany. Our fan base and demand there is just fantastic. The support from ownership to do more and allow teams, players, and the whole league to engage with fans internationally has never been higher."

*__Neil Reynolds__ is the anchor of Sky Sports' television coverage of the NFL in the United Kingdom and also hosts a variety of fan events for NFL UK.*




# THE "WOW" FACTOR

## UNEXPECTED, UNUSUAL, AND ICONIC MOMENTS FILL THE PAGES OF SUPER BOWL HISTORY.

BY GEOFF MOSHER

**An exhausted James Harrison** lies on the ground after his 100-yard interception-return touchdown for the Steelers against Arizona in Super Bowl XLIII.

Al Bello/Getty Images

During the only Super Bowl he ever played in, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason started practicing on the sideline for the grand moment that awaited him.

The Bengals nursed a late 16-13 lead against the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIII in Miami, and though the 49ers had the ball, they were backed up to their own 8-yard line. Nervous but wanting to be prepared, Esiason rehearsed the only words he needed to say when the camera crew rushed over at game's end: "I'm going to Disney World."

"As I get to the sideline, somebody taps me on the shoulder and asks me if I know my line for the commercial," Esiason recalls. "People who put these together aren't necessarily football fans and don't realize the significance of the moment for the person involved in the moment. They kept asking me if I knew my line."

While Esiason practiced, 49ers quarterback Joe Montana calmed his teammates in the huddle by imploring them to check out someone famous in the crowd.

"Look there," Montana said. "In the stands, standing near the exit ramp. Isn't that John Candy?"

Montana then proceeded to surgically march San Francisco down the field, capped by a 10-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds to play that stole the Lombardi Trophy – and a trip to the Magic Kingdom – away from Esiason. The Disney tradition had started two years earlier, when Super Bowl XXI MVP Phil Simms first uttered the now-famous line, and was already a celebrated part of the postgame pageantry.

"It became a signature of success," Esiason says. "It's like being on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. That was the sign that you've made it."

Fifty-three years of Super Bowls have produced an oversized sampling of such cool and crazy moments, ones that would be memorable no matter when they happened but take on greater legend given the stage.

Here's a look at some others that resonate with fans who live for the Super Bowl surreal.

## Harrison to the House

Super Bowl XLIII between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals was effectively decided by Santonio Holmes' go-ahead touchdown catch with 35 seconds to play.

But some observers believe the Steelers actually secured the victory in the final seconds of the first half, when linebacker James Harrison prevented a likely Cardinals score by intercepting Kurt Warner at the goal line and zig-zagging 100 yards downfield for the longest interception-return TD in Super Bowl history.

"That was my first broadcast for NBC," says Super Bowl champion coach and NBC Sports analyst Tony Dungy. "At halftime, we were planning to talk about the Steelers and what they had done to take away (Cardinals receiver) Larry Fitzgerald.

"Then Warner throws it, thinks he's got a touchdown, and Harrison runs it all the way back, and our producer says, 'Scrap everything we talked about, this is the biggest momentum-changing play in Super Bowl history.'"

Harrison's touchdown represented a 14-point swing and has been called the single-most impactful play in the Super Bowl, every bit as significant as the touchdown Holmes later caught to secure the Steelers' sixth Super Bowl title.

"The No. 1 play in Steelers history and lore is Franco Harris' Immaculate Reception," says Steelers broadcaster Chris Hoke, a teammate of Harrison's on that 2008 team. "That's what propelled an organizational culture.

"The other play you talk about is the catch Santonio Holmes made at the end of Super Bowl XLIII, but if we let the Cardinals score before halftime, we don't win that game."

Only 15 seconds remained in the second quarter when Harrison secured the ball and headed the other way. Using a convoy of teammates as blockers, he navigated through traffic down the right sideline and opted to stay inbounds as the waning seconds ticked away. He picked up a final block from LaMarr Woodley at the Arizona 30 before outracing two more Cardinals and plunging into the end zone.

"I remember we went right into the locker room with James," Hoke says. "He was exhausted. He had to get oxygen. We pretty much had to carry him off the field."

John Biever/Getty Images

Brett Carlsen/Getty Images

**Above:** Don Beebe knocks the ball away from the Cowboys' Leon Lett in Super Bowl XXVII, preventing a late TD. **Right:** A diagram of the "Philly Special" play the Eagles used in Super Bowl LII has been plastered on clothing and other items in the city.

## The Don of Determination

No one would have blamed the Buffalo Bills for hanging their heads as the minutes counted down in Super Bowl XXVII. They were spiraling toward a third straight Super Bowl defeat when an unlikely inspiration emerged.

With his team trailing the Dallas Cowboys, 52-17, late in the fourth quarter, Bills quarterback Frank Reich fumbled while being sacked near midfield. Defensive lineman Leon Lett scooped up the loose ball and began his stampede toward the end zone. The 290-pound Lett downshifted around the Buffalo 5-yard line to begin a premature end zone celebration, extending his right arm forward to let the world behold what would be the first touchdown of his career.

He never saw Bills receiver Don Beebe coming from behind.

Beebe arrived just in time to slap the ball out of Lett's right hand before he crossed the goal line. The pigskin skidded out of the back of the end zone for a touchback – providing a small dose of satisfaction on an otherwise forgettable day for the upstate New York franchise.

"Quite a few people still remember that play," says Bill Polian, general manager of those outstanding Bills teams of the early '90s. "It's a point of pride for people in Buffalo that despite everything that had gone wrong, as epitomized by Don, we still fought and hustled to the end."

In a game Dallas won by 35 points, it was Beebe who somehow presented the best template for textbook execution.

## Extra-Special Delivery

The "Philly Special" from Super Bowl LII did more than provide some scoreboard cushion for the Philadelphia Eagles in their battle against the New England Patriots.

The trick play spawned a cultural phenomenon.

Throughout Philadelphia and its sprawling suburbs, a playbook-version inscription of the gimmick can be found on T-shirts, visors, restaurant menus, and bumper stickers, as well as tattooed on arms, legs, and other body parts in and around the football-mad Delaware Valley.

"When you do it on Super Bowl Sunday and the Eagles get their only Super Bowl victory and it's versus the Patriots and on that stage," says Brian Baldinger, a former NFL offensive lineman who played for the Eagles and still lives in suburban Philly. "That play is now part of the game's folklore, just like the Ice Bowl and all the iconic plays in Super Bowl history."

The Eagles had practiced their goal-line gadget play all week, mostly with negative results, but coach Doug Pederson showed no hesitation when approached during a timeout by quarterback Nick Foles, who first suggested the aggressive call.

"You want 'Philly Philly?'" Foles asked with the persuasion of a lobbyist.

"Let's do it," Pederson responded.

The ball was snapped directly to rookie running back Corey Clement while Foles pretended to audible at the line of scrimmage. Clement then flipped the ball to tight end Trey Burton on an end around while Foles slipped into the end zone, where he reeled in Burton's surprise toss.

The touchdown produced a 10-point lead in an eventual 41-33 Eagles triumph. But the symbolism of Pederson's no-holds-barred aggression against the intimidating Patriots is what most resonated with the region's

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blue-collar fan base and a team that loudly played the underdog card during the postseason.

"From our perspective, it was like the coolest thing ever," says Vince Papale, whose personal underdog story of making the Eagles roster in 1976 inspired the movie *Invincible*.

"It's just basically a high school or college play and it worked," notes Papale, a close friend and neighbor of Pederson's. "He would have been vilified (if the Eagles didn't score). They would have run the guy right out of town. But he did get it, so that's the thing. There's great reward for taking risks – big risks."

**Above:** The Ravens' Jermaine Lewis heads to the end zone for a kickoff-return touchdown against the Giants in Super Bowl XXXV. **Right:** Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel catches a pass for one of the five TDs scored in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XXXVIII.

Andy Lyons/Getty Images

## Anything You Can Do...

Little had gone right for the New York Giants during Super Bowl XXXV in Tampa. Facing a Baltimore Ravens defense that ranked among the sport's stingiest ever, the Giants were being blanked, 17-0, in the third quarter before Ron Dixon breathed life into the New York sideline by returning a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown.

The second-longest kickoff-return touchdown in Super Bowl history had provided a spark... or at least fans of Big Blue hoped so.

"You thought it might just do it," recalls Dungy, who was in attendance for the game. "And then, [moments] later, it was totally gone."

The Giants' momentum barely lasted two seconds. Dixon's epic return was reduced to a footnote after the Ravens' Jermaine Lewis took back the ensuing kickoff 84 yards to paydirt, marking the only time in Super Bowl history that consecutive kickoffs have been returned for touchdowns. Add in Duane Starks' 49-yard interception-return TD that preceded the two kickoffs, and you have touchdowns on three straight plays – and none of them by the offense.

Lewis' return robbed the Giants of their ephemeral mojo and rerouted Baltimore toward a 34-7 romp.

"[They were] totally done," says Esiason, now an NFL commentator, describing the Giants after the Lewis return. "Just a matter of time."

## Fantastic Fourth

The record 37 points scored over the final 15 minutes of Super Bowl XXXVIII is even more remarkable given the lethargic scoring pace of the game's first three quarters. In fact, no Super Bowl had gone longer without points – 26 minutes, 55 seconds to be exact – before Tom Brady's 5-yard touchdown throw to Deion Branch put the Patriots on the board against the Carolina Panthers.

That set off a mini scoring burst before the half, with New England holding a 14-10 lead heading into the locker room, but the score would then remain unchanged until a wild fourth quarter.

"I remember wondering whether (Panthers quarterback) Jake Delhomme was going to be able to pull this thing off and just how

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**Left:** Bears defensive tackle William "The Refrigerator" Perry spikes the ball after rushing for a touchdown in Super Bowl XX. **Above:** Super Bowl XLIII MVP Santonio Holmes continued a tradition by "going to Disney World" for a parade down Main Street USA the day after the game.

totally unconventional that second half was," Esiason recalls. "It was back and forth. It was just hard to explain what the hell happened."

New England's Antowain Smith began the points parade with a 2-yard touchdown run seven seconds into the quarter. Carolina answered with Deshaun Foster's 33-yard scoring scamper and Delhomme's 85-yard TD pass to Muhsin Muhammad – the longest in Super Bowl history – to move the Panthers in front. The one-time defensive battle had evolved into full-fledged scoring spectacle.

And we still weren't done.

Brady put the Patriots back on top with a 1-yard TD pass to linebacker – yes, *linebacker* – Mike Vrabel, but Delhomme then marched the Panthers 80 yards, capped by a 12-yard touchdown throw to Ricky Proehl. John Kasay's PAT knotted the game, 29-29, with 1:08 left to play.

But the 68 seconds that remained seemed like an eternity for a quarter that couldn't go 6.8 seconds without a momentum-swinging play. Brady used up most of that time on a six-play, 37-yard march that led to Adam Vinatieri's 41-yard field goal and the final points in the Patriots' victory.

"Super Bowl XXV (a 20-19 Giants win over the Bills) was the standard, then a few Super Bowls got ugly," says Baldinger, who broadcast Super Bowl XXXVIII to a European audience. "That one held our attention to the end."

## Bear Essential

The symmetry between the standout moment of Super Bowl XX and the person at the center of that spectacle is what makes this story so uniquely compelling.

The 1985 Chicago Bears left no doubt about their place as one of the sport's greatest defensive teams by trouncing the Patriots, 46-10, to punctuate their 15-1 season with the franchise's first Lombardi Trophy. So it was only fitting that with Chicago up, 37-3, late in the third quarter, and with the Bears again knocking at the goal line, that coach Mike Ditka would line up defensive tackle William Perry in the backfield and call for a handoff to the 335-pound rookie.

"The Fridge" steamrolled through New England's beleaguered front for a touchdown and spiked the football with the tenacity of an earthquake.

"I certainly expected the ball to go to Walter Payton there. But when [Perry] scored, it was kind of unique – a big man scoring a touchdown in the Super Bowl," says Dungy, an assistant coach with the Steelers that season. "It put the icing on the cake for the year those guys had. The defense was so dominant, and then to have a defensive player make a splashy play like that and score, it was fitting."

The Bears, however, weren't innovators of that play call. A year earlier, in the NFC Championship Game, San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh used a defensive tackle to lead block against the Bears late in the game to help seal a 23-0 win. At the time, the concept didn't sit well with Ditka and his prideful team. But the following season, the Bears traveled back to Candlestick Park for a rematch during the regular season. Ditka employed the same formation against Walsh but actually dialed Perry's number twice for two carries that netted 4 yards.

The next week, at home against the Packers, Perry rushed for the first touchdown of his career. Two weeks later, he wrapped his gargantuan hands around a 4-yard TD pass. He rushed for another touchdown in the regular season before punctuating his season against the Patriots with one final scoring run in front of a global audience.

"Seeing The Fridge do that… it was just one of those moments," says Baldinger. "It was the '85 Bears. They were larger than life."

***Geoff Mosher*** *is an award-winning sportswriter, sports-talk radio host with 97.3 ESPN, freelancer, and host of "Inside the Birds: A Philadelphia Eagles podcast." He has covered the Eagles and the NFL for nearly 15 seasons.*

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# TAKE TWO

The Patriots' innovative defensive game plan bottled up the Rams' potent offense throughout Super Bowl LIII.

# THE TEAM THAT BEST USES THE 14 DAYS LEADING UP TO SUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS BOUND TO PREVAIL. YET IT'S A LESSON THAT HAS TO BE LEARNED.

BY JOHN CLAYTON

Robert Deutsch/USA TODAY Sports

## Sean McVay didn't hold back from criticizing himself.

Whether it was in the minutes or the months after losing Super Bowl LIII to Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots, the Rams coach lamented how he overprepared during the two-week gap after the NFC Championship Game. It clouded his thinking and prevented him from adjusting to Belichick's innovative defensive schemes.

Running backs Todd Gurley and C.J. Anderson were stuffed. Quarterback Jared Goff couldn't find open receivers. And the reason? Belichick had completely revamped his defense, installing a form of the 1985 Chicago Bears' 46 alignment by placing six defenders at the line of scrimmage and his cornerbacks in quarters coverage to add flexibility to cover receivers – while also being able to help in run support.

The result was a 13-3 Patriots victory, and McVay, whose team averaged nearly 33 points per game during the regular season, didn't offer any excuses.

In the game's immediate aftermath, he told reporters, "I'm pretty numb right now. I definitely got outcoached." Then, speaking with SI.com in May, he added, "In the back of my mind (when making the Super Bowl game plan back in Los Angeles), I operated knowing I had another week. That urgency to completely finalize the game plan wasn't quite there, and that led to me watching so much film that you can almost water down your thought process."

Former St. Louis Rams coach Mike Martz understands the dilemma.

"That's the nature of the beast," he says. "Coaches in general will do that, but you just got to believe what you see on tape. And you have to be prepared to adjust.

"You can't go into a game like that and just stay with your plan. You've got to have Plan B ready to go. If your team runs the ball well, [Belichick] is not going to let you do that. You have to do something to make him change."

Preparing for a Super Bowl has changed as well, particularly since former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue permanently expanded the time between the conference title games and the Super Bowl to two weeks, starting with Super Bowl XXXVIII. Eight of the first 37 Super Bowls were held just one week after the AFC and NFC crowned their champions.

From a business standpoint, Tagliabue knew the extended time would add to the game's hype and offer financial benefits – the Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce estimated that Super Bowl LIII had a $400 million economic impact on the city. But it's also changed how teams prepare.

"Two weeks is better because you know what you get," says Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, who's

taken his team to a pair of Super Bowls. "The thinking is totally borrowed from (three-time Super Bowl-winning 49ers coach) Bill Walsh that you put your game plan in the first week and get it all done. Then, when you travel to the site, you're just polishing."

Most coaches now take a similar approach. They know the distractions that loom as game day approaches.

"You can't let the outside stuff bother you," Denver Broncos President of Football Operations John Elway says. "Those things can be as big as the game. Sometimes you try to outthink it and do too many different things."

"You have to find a way for the players to feel that this is a normal game," adds Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who was Seattle's defensive coordinator under Carroll before leading his own team to Super Bowl LI. "You also have to take into account it's a long season and injuries could catch up to you."

Charles Bus/AP Images

AP Images

**Above:** Super Bowl Opening Night ushers in a busy week for teams that can distract from preparation. **Left:** Former Rams coach Mike Martz (left) kept his focus on the game.

Over the past two decades, it's been more important than ever to make the game "normal" and be as focused as possible. The reason is Belichick. He's been to nine of the last 18 Super Bowls, and his catalog of strategies is proven and extensive. Give Belichick two weeks and he will get into the head of any opposing coach.

Former Patriots tight end Christian Fauria remembers a Super Bowl season in which the team used a two-tight end offense all the way through the AFC title game. But when the tight ends entered their rooms the following Wednesday, they found out they weren't part of the Super Bowl game plan.

Martz coached in two Super Bowls with the Rams, one as an offensive coordinator and one as a head coach. Across the field from him in Super Bowl XXXVI was Belichick, who despite it being his first Super Bowl as a head coach, showed he was ahead of his time as far as preparation.

The Rams had played the Patriots in Foxborough in November 2001. Even though they prevailed, 24-17, Martz stunned a New England reporter with his postgame evaluation.

"I said, 'Look, this is a Super Bowl team we just beat,'" Martz recalls. "The reporter looked at me like I was nuts, but I told her that's the best football team I had ever coached against."

When Martz began preparing for a rematch in that season's Super Bowl, he knew he needed to use every ounce of creativity to have Plans B, C, and D ready for Belichick. In their November meeting, Martz started the game with two tight ends, two backs, and one receiver; Belichick countered with four down linemen and seven defensive backs.

Game on.

"It was a complete oddball matchup," Martz says. "Our guys were saying 'What, there's no linebackers?' [Belichick] is tough to go against because he likes trying to throw you off."

Seventeen years later, nothing had changed. McVay prepared for Super Bowl LIII by watching every 2018 Patriots game, including the playoffs, as well as New England's previous two Super Bowl appearances. That's 20 games of study, which provided a lot of insight but also ate up McVay's time and slowed down his ability to create alternatives for his team.

Belichick, meanwhile, knew right where to start. He looked at an early December contest between the Detroit Lions and the Rams, when Lions coach Matt Patricia (Belichick's former defensive coordinator) came up with a game plan that took away Los Angeles' potent edge rushes, and adapted it for his purposes.

Perhaps McVay should have checked out Martz's Super Bowl against the Patriots. The emphasis to stop Gurley and Anderson was no different than what Belichick did to stop running back Marshall Faulk.

"Everybody tried to take away Marshall

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Faulk," Martz says. "They had an extra guy near the offensive line in there. [Faulk] averaged close to 5 yards a carry, but when we got behind, I couldn't be as patient handing him the ball."

Martz adjusted, and the Rams, trailing 17-3, scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to tie things up – before Belichick, Tom Brady, and Adam Vinatieri wrote the game's final chapter.

Former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy remembers overthinking his strategy during the two weeks leading into Super Bowl XLI against the Chicago Bears. He knew his special teams were going to be challenged to stop Bears returner Devin Hester, one of the best at that position in NFL history.

Dungy learned from longtime Pittsburgh Steelers coach Chuck Noll, who went 4-0 in Super Bowls, including a victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XIII when Dungy was a Steelers defensive back.

"In Pittsburgh, Chuck had us do our normal week of work before the Super Bowl," Dungy says. "When we got to the game, it was actually just kind of a review."

AP Images

**Above:** Devin Hester made the Colts pay for their decision to kick to him to start Super Bowl XLI. **Left:** Seahawks coach Pete Carroll (standing) is among those who've adopted the Bill Walsh method of game planning for the Super Bowl.

Dungy, though, began questioning his approach to Hester.

"He was this big, dynamic offensive weapon," Dungy says. "We decided we were going to keep the ball away from him by kicking in the corners. But when we got to the second week, I started thinking I was sending my team the wrong message. I didn't want us to play scared.

"I told them we weren't going to do that. We were going to kick right down the middle of the field to this guy. Of course, he takes off with the opening kickoff and runs it back for a (92-yard) touchdown."

The Colts didn't make that mistake again. On the Bears' next five kickoff returns, they netted just 46 yards – and none of the kicks went to Hester. Dungy's team won the game, 29-17.

Yet even when teams execute their game plan, it may not be enough. Quinn found that out in Super Bowl LI, when his team looked unstoppable while racing out to a 28-3 third-quarter lead over the Patriots.

Belichick, despite the huge deficit, didn't panic. He adjusted. And with Brady playing at his highest level, the Falcons making just enough mistakes, and the New England defense putting unrelenting pressure on Falcons QB Matt Ryan to force a crucial turnover, the Patriots roared back to win, 34-28, in overtime.

"I think we ran out of gas some," Quinn says. "And they executed terrifically. When they got hot, it was hard for us to deal with."

The bottom line is that the two-week Super Bowl works, both for the host city's "bottom line" and for the teams involved. Yet once the game starts, it's still just football, no matter how much time you have to prepare. Coaches must be ready to dial up the unexpected.

Martz did just that in Super Bowl XXXIV against and the Titans. The Rams were on their heels after Tennessee rallied to tie the score with 2:15 remaining, but on their next offensive play, Martz called "Twins right, Ace right, 999."

The play wasn't in the game plan and hadn't been used in two months, but it worked. Wide receiver Isaac Bruce went long and caught the game-winning 73-yard touchdown pass.

In the Super Bowl, Plan B can be your winning ticket.

***John Clayton*** *hosts a daily show on 710 ESPN Seattle, is a columnist for the* Washington Post, *and hosts on SiriusXMNFL Radio. The 2007 recipient of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's McCann Award for distinguished reporting, he spent 22 years at ESPN.*

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Bob Kuechenberg

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Don Shula

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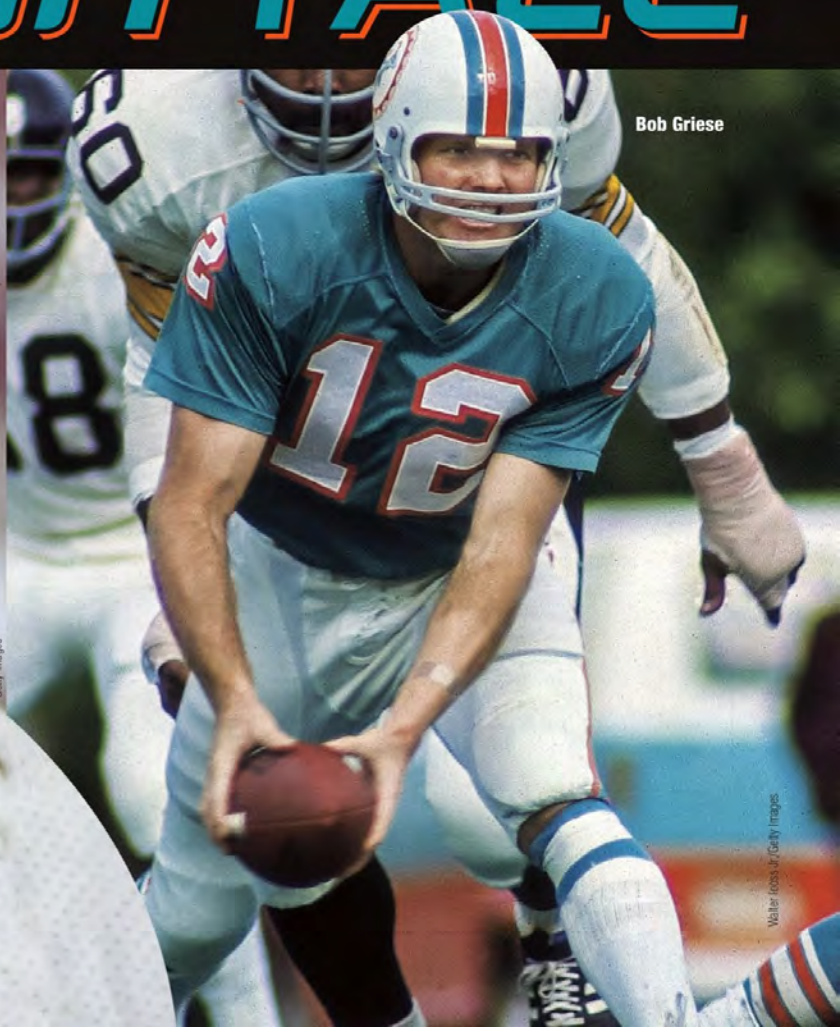
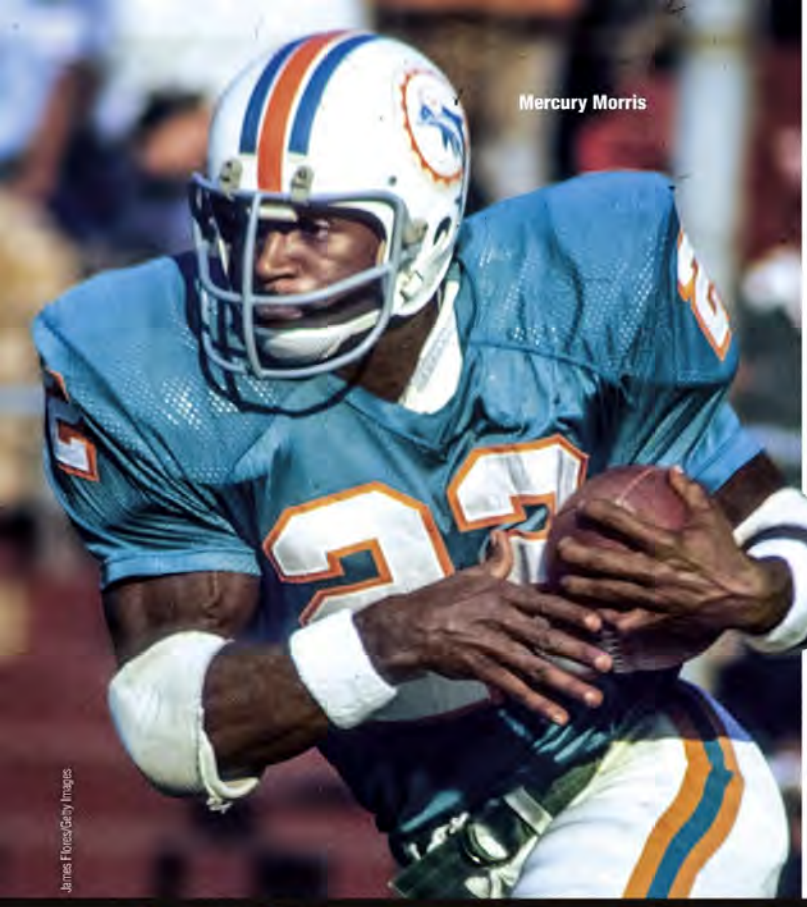
# Dolphin TALE

Larry Csonka

Getty Images


Bob Griese

Walter Iooss Jr./Getty Images



Mercury Morris

James Flores/Getty Images

**TOWARD THE END** of the 1970 preseason, as August hope turned to September reality, Bob Kuechenberg sat anxiously at his Miami Dolphins locker and heard the dreaded words from a team aide: "Coach wants to see you."

Then came the even more dreaded words: "And bring your playbook."

Kuechenberg cursed. He was being released. His dream was dead. He'd scanned NFL rosters for his best opportunity as an unproven free agent and chose Miami because his former Notre Dame teammate, Ed Tuck, was on the roster. He was a better guard than Tuck, Kuechenberg thought.

Now coach Don Shula was indeed cutting him. But as Kuechenberg left Shula's office, he was motioned to the side by offensive line coach Monte Clark.

"Listen, here's our plan," Clark said. "I can't promise it will work, but…"

The Dolphins thought an unknown like Kuechenberg could get through the waiver wire with no team claiming him. The plan was to bring him back, Clark explained.

"Yeah, right," Kuechenberg replied.

In that summer of 1970, the thought of going 17-0 and producing the NFL's only undefeated season two years later seemed laughable to those inside the Dolphins. They had a 3-10-1 record in 1969. They had glaring problems across the roster.

Undefeated?

## BIG GAMBLES AND BRILLIANT DECISIONS STEERED MIAMI'S PATH TO PERFECTION IN 1972. BY DAVE HYDE

Jim Langer

Malcolm Emmons/USA TODAY Sports

Shula simply asked in his first meeting with Bob Griese, who had a reputation as a scrambler, that the young quarterback stay in the pocket.

"Build me a pocket and I'll stay in it," Griese told him.

The offensive line, Shula knew, was a prime problem. That's where Clark and Kuechenberg entered. Just retired as a Cleveland player, Clark already had played the waiver-wire game to great success that 1970 preseason. Cleveland released rookie guard Jim Langer with the idea of bringing him back. Clark's former Browns teammates were privately raving about the kid, so the Dolphins grabbed Langer. In 1972, Langer moved to center and started for the "Perfect Season" Dolphins in a career that ended with Hall of Fame enshrinement.

Clark also saw that San Francisco released a tackle named "Solomon Moore." Clark was from the Bay Area. He played basketball in the offseason with a good 49ers tackle named "Wayne Moore." Clark did some research and found Wayne Moore's first name actually was Solomon. The 49ers were trying to sneak him through waivers. So Clark had the Dolphins grab Moore. Moore started three Super Bowls for the Dolphins at left tackle.

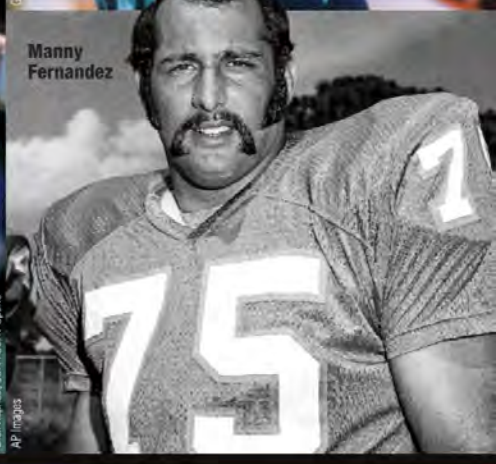
Now came the Kuechenberg gamble. It was an awful week of waiting for Kuechenberg. No team claiming him was bad news, he figured. But the Dolphins, true to Clark's word, brought him back. He started that season at guard. He started the following 13 Dolphins seasons, too, and was selected to six Pro Bowls.

And so the pieces of the offensive line that helped power the Dolphins to their undefeated season moved into place. Guard Larry Little, a

Jake Scott

Bill Stanfill

Getty Images


Manny Fernandez

Dick Raphael/USA TODAY Sports
AP Images

future Hall of Famer, already was there after a lopsided trade in 1969. Tackle Norm Evans was the lone player on the roster who remained from the Dolphins' expansion draft in 1966.

In their first game together, the line yielded eight sacks to New England. Clark was so distressed that he was hospitalized afterward for a possible heart attack.

But, in time, the line became a unit, then a force. It powered the NFL's top rushing attack in 1972. It allowed the Dolphins to win the Super Bowl with only seven passes in 1973. It escorted fullback Larry Csonka to the Hall of Fame.

But if the strength of the line was its, well, strength, its beauty was in its odd architecture. The Dolphins didn't expend a college draft pick in building it. Not one. And look at the results: two Hall of Famers in Little and Langer, a Hall finalist and frequent Pro Bowl selection in Kuechenberg, and two veteran tackles in Moore and Evans.

This line symbolized the larger Perfect Season roster, too. It was constructed on more shrewdness than good fortune or big dollars. Team owner Joe Robbie mortgaged his house, after all, to help finance his purchase of the American Football League team in 1966. He counted locker room towels and oversaw phone bills to keep costs down.

Even Shula fretted about going to Robbie with an expensive idea in the months before the 1972 season. Just getting approval for a cleaning service to perform two nights a week in the coaches offices rather than the customary one night was an achievement, Shula thought. Now he wanted to sign veteran quarterback Earl Morrall as an insurance policy to Griese.

"What's the problem?" Robbie asked.

"He costs $90,000," Shula said.

That would rank Morrall as the most expensive player on the roster after Griese. Robbie, though, signed off on it. When Griese broke his leg in the season's fifth game, Morrall entered to steady the day and start the remainder of the regular season.

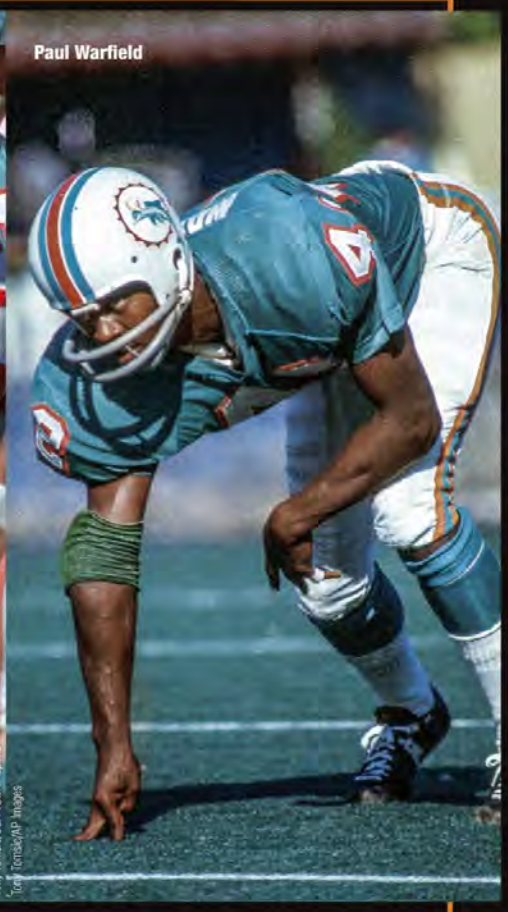
Robbie, if financially strapped, was football wise in such ways. His first hire for an expansion team proved that. Joe Thomas was given the title of pro-personnel director. Thomas really was a one-man scouting, drafting, trading, signing, and roster-building wing of the organization who assembled much of that Perfect Season talent.

He worked around those dollar constraints. One Robbie rule: No undrafted player from west of the Mississippi River could be signed. The risk wasn't worth the cost, he said. But Thomas got Robbie to make an exception for Utah defensive tackle Manny Fernandez, under the guise the Cuban-rich Miami population would take to him. Never mind Fernandez was Mexican and, as he admitted, "Couldn't say 'adios' in Spanish." Fernandez had 17 tackles in the Super Bowl VII win over Washington.

Thomas' second draft pick in 1966 was Kentucky quarterback Rick Norton. After just one season, Thomas wasn't sure Norton was the right guy under center, so he drafted Griese with the fourth overall pick in the '67 draft.

When reporters asked why he took a quarterback for a second straight year, Thomas said simply: "I'll keep taking one until I'm sure we have one."

That 1967 draft started a run of brilliant draft decisions by Thomas that stocked the roster. It wasn't just Csonka with the eighth pick in




1968. Star safety Dick Anderson and running back Jim Kiick also came that year.

Before the 1969 draft, defensive end Bill Stanfill only heard from Thomas once and was asked one question with the Vietnam War ongoing: "What's your draft status?" Thomas then drafted Stanfill, who became the Dolphins' all-time sack leader until Hall of Famer Jason Taylor overtook him. Running back Mercury Morris and cornerback Lloyd Mumphord were part of that same draft.

"The greatest judge of talent I've ever seen," the late Nick Buoniconti often said of Thomas.

Thomas, never shy, agreed with such thoughts.

"It's embarrassing," he once told *Sports Illustrated*. "But I guess I've never made a bad trade."

If that statement was inflated over a career that included personnel jobs with the Minnesota Vikings, Baltimore Colts, and the San Francisco 49ers, it rang true with the Dolphins. Thomas never made a bad trade while with Miami. The only question is which rated as his best one.

Was it trading in 1969 for Buoniconti, the heart of the No-Name Defense and a Hall of Fame linebacker, for honest-to-history no names in third-string quarterback Kim Hammond and reserve linebacker John Bramlett (plus a fifth-round pick)?

Or was his best trade in 1970 for another Hall of Famer in receiver Paul Warfield? Thomas got Warfield, then 27 years old, from Cleveland for the third pick in the draft (which became QB Mike Phipps). Thomas stocked the Dolphins with stars that draft day: Warfield, Jim Mandich, Mike Kolen, Curtis Johnson, and Jake Scott, who was playing in Canada and cost a seventh-round pick. In Super Bowl VII, Scott grabbed two interceptions and was named the Most Valuable Player.

Still, maybe the best trade Thomas made was one that barely made news. A "nothing-for-nothing trade," San Diego coach Sid Gillman called sending Little to the Dolphins before the 1969 season. The deal produced such a small ripple that Little, a Miami native, walked into a bar that night and saw his former high school teammate, Mack Lamb, who was a Dolphins cornerback.

"I just got traded to the Dolphins," Little said.

"Great, we'll be teammates," Lamb replied.

"Mack, I got traded for you," Little said.

Two months later, Mack was released by San Diego. Little went on to become a Hall of Fame guard. At his induction in Canton, Little ran into Gillman.

"Trading you was the worst mistake I made," Gillman said.

In all, the undefeated '72 Dolphins had six future Hall of Fame players. Adding a seventh Hall of Famer was also telling. Robbie was looking for a coach after the dismal season of 1969 when *Miami Herald* columnist Bill Braucher asked, "Why not go for the best?"

"Who?"

"Don Shula."

Robbie hired Shula from Baltimore. The new coach took all the good clay Thomas provided, made some smart decisions of his own, and molded that roster into a season that stands through time.

***Dave Hyde** is an award-winning columnist for the* South Florida Sun-Sentinel *and author of* Still Perfect: The Untold Story of the 1972 Miami Dolphins.

Left to right: Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images; USA TODAY Sports; Getty Images

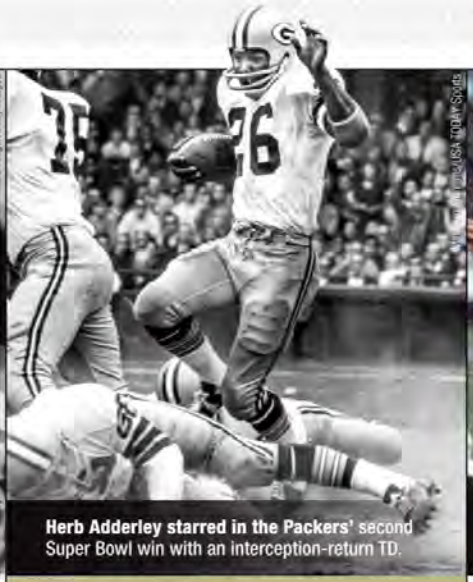
**Bart Starr (left), Joe Montana (center), and Tom Brady** rank among the Super Bowl's greatest legends, having combined for 12 titles and nine MVP Awards.

# PASSING THE TORCH

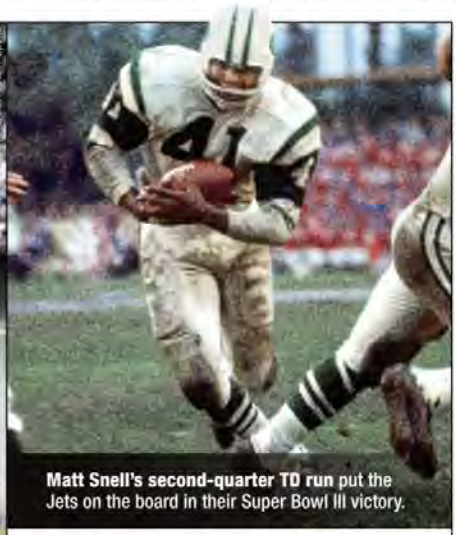
## RECAPPING SUPER BOWLS I-LIII

Robert Riger/Getty Images

**Coach Vince Lombardi raises a game ball** after his Packers beat the Chiefs in the first Super Bowl.


Walter Iooss/USA TODAY Sports

**Herb Adderley starred in the Packers'** second Super Bowl win with an interception-return TD.


Herb Scharfman/Getty Images

**Matt Snell's second-quarter TD run** put the Jets on the board in their Super Bowl III victory.

## SUPER BOWL I
### JANUARY 15, 1967

**Green Bay Packers** 35
**Kansas City Chiefs** 10

**Attendance:** 61,946

**MVP:** Bart Starr (QB), Packers
16 of 23 passing, 250 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Green Bay – d. Dallas, 34-27 (NFL Championship). Kansas City – d. Buffalo, 31-7 (AFL Championship).

**The Packers opened** the Super Bowl era by defeating the AFL champion Chiefs behind the passing of Bart Starr, the receiving of Max McGee, and a key interception by safety Willie Wood. Leading by a narrow 14-10 margin at the half, Green Bay took control with three second-half touchdowns, the first of which was set up by Wood's 50-yard interception return. McGee, filling in for an ailing Boyd Dowler after having only four receptions all season, caught seven passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns. Elijah Pitts ran for two other Packers scores. All of the Chiefs' points came in the second quarter, including a 7-yard TD pass from Len Dawson to Curtis McClinton.

### MEMORIAL COLISEUM
### Los Angeles, Calif.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 7 | 14 | 7 | 35 |

**1st Quarter**
**GB** McGee 37 pass from Starr (Chandler kick), 8:56

**2nd Quarter**
**KC** McClinton 7 pass from Dawson (Mercer kick), 4:20
**GB** Taylor 14 run (Chandler kick), 10:23
**KC** Mercer 31 FG, 14:06

**3rd Quarter**
**GB** Pitts 5 run (Chandler kick), 2:27
**GB** McGee 13 pass from Starr (Chandler kick), 14:09

**4th Quarter**
**GB** Pitts 1 run (Chandler kick), 8:25

## SUPER BOWL II
### JANUARY 14, 1968

**Green Bay Packers** 33
**Oakland Raiders** 14

**Attendance:** 75,546

**MVP:** Bart Starr (QB), Packers
13 of 24 passing, 202 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Green Bay – d. L.A. Rams, 28-7; d. Dallas, 21-17 (NFL Championship). Oakland – d. Houston Oilers, 40-7 (AFL Championship).

**Two weeks after capturing** its third consecutive NFL championship, Green Bay won the Super Bowl title for the second straight year, defeating the Raiders in a game that drew the first $3 million gate in football history. Bart Starr directed an attack that built a 16-7 halftime lead and pulled away after intermission. Don Chandler kicked four field goals for the victors and cornerback Herb Adderley capped the Green Bay scoring with his 60-yard interception-return TD. The game marked the last for Vince Lombardi as Packers coach, ending a tenure that saw him win five NFL titles and two Super Bowls.

### ORANGE BOWL
### Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green Bay | 3 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 33 |
| Oakland | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 14 |

**1st Quarter**
**GB** Chandler 39 FG, 5:07

**2nd Quarter**
**GB** Chandler 20 FG, 3:08
**GB** Dowler 62 pass from Starr (Chandler kick), 4:10
**OAK** Miller 23 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick), 8:45
**GB** Chandler 43 FG, 14:59

**3rd Quarter**
**GB** Anderson 2 run (Chandler kick), 9:06
**GB** Chandler 31 FG, 14:58

**4th Quarter**
**GB** Adderley 60 interception return (Chandler kick), 3:57
**OAK** Miller 23 pass from Lamonica (Blanda kick), 5:47

## SUPER BOWL III
### JANUARY 12, 1969

**New York Jets** 16
**Baltimore Colts** 7

**Attendance:** 75,389

**MVP:** Joe Namath (QB), Jets
17 of 28 passing, 206 yards

**How They Got There:** New York – d. Oakland, 27-23 (AFL Championship). Baltimore – d. Minnesota, 24-14; d. Cleveland, 34-0 (NFL Championship).

**Jets quarterback Joe Namath** "guaranteed" victory on the Thursday before the game, then went out and led the AFL to its first Super Bowl win – beating a Baltimore team that had lost only once all season. Namath led a steady attack that dominated the NFL champions, while the Jets' defense intercepted Colts quarterback Earl Morrall three times in the first half. New York had 337 total yards, including 121 on the ground from Matt Snell. Johnny Unitas, who missed most of the season with a sore elbow, came off the bench to lead Baltimore to its only touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

### ORANGE BOWL
### Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York Jets | 0 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 16 |
| Baltimore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |

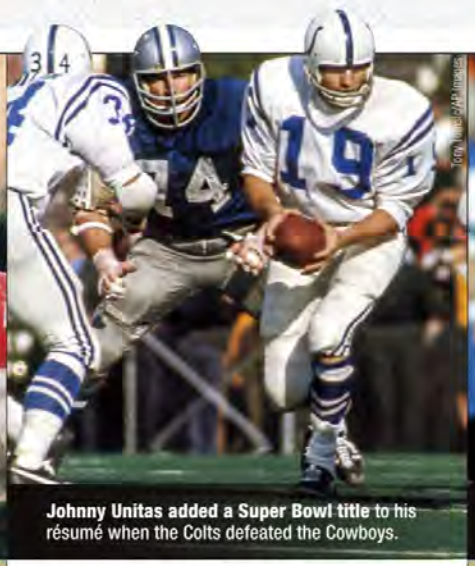
**2nd Quarter**
**NYJ** Snell 4 run (J. Turner kick), 5:57

**3rd Quarter**
**NYJ** J. Turner 32 FG, 4:52
**NYJ** J. Turner 30 FG, 11:02

**4th Quarter**
**NYJ** J. Turner 9 FG, 1:34
**BAL** Hill 1 run (Michaels kick), 11:41

Getty Images

**Jan Stenerud's three field goals** gave the Chiefs an early lift vs. the Vikings in Super Bowl IV.



Tony Tomsic/AP Images

**Johnny Unitas added a Super Bowl title** to his résumé when the Colts defeated the Cowboys.

Tony Tomsic/USA TODAY Sports

**Mike Ditka had a TD catch** in Dallas' Super Bowl VI win and later coached the Chicago Bears to the title.

## SUPER BOWL IV
### JANUARY 11, 1970

**Kansas City Chiefs** 23
**Minnesota Vikings** 7

**Attendance:** 80,562

**MVP:** Len Dawson (QB), Chiefs
12 of 17 passing, 142 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Kansas City – d. N.Y. Jets, 13-6; d. Oakland, 17-7 (AFL Championship). Minnesota – d. L.A. Rams, 23-20; d. Cleveland, 27-7 (NFL Championship).

**The AFL squared** the Super Bowl series at two victories apiece behind Len Dawson's superb quarterbacking and a powerful defense. Dawson called an almost flawless game and hit Otis Taylor on a 46-yard play for the Chiefs' final touchdown, minutes after the Vikings scored their only points. The Kansas City defense limited Minnesota's strong rushing game to 67 yards and forced five turnovers (three interceptions and two lost fumbles). Jan Stenerud provided an early spark for the Chiefs with field goals from 48, 32, and 25 yards, while Mike Garrett's 5-yard TD run before halftime made it 16-0.

### TULANE STADIUM
### New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Kansas City | 3 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 23 |

**1st Quarter**
**KC** Stenerud 48 FG, 8:08

**2nd Quarter**
**KC** Stenerud 32 FG, 1:40
**KC** Stenerud 25 FG, 7:08
**KC** Garrett 5 run (Stenerud kick), 9:26

**3rd Quarter**
**MIN** Osborn 4 run (Cox kick), 10:28
**KC** Taylor 46 pass from Dawson (Stenerud kick), 13:38

## SUPER BOWL V
### JANUARY 17, 1971

**Baltimore Colts** 16
**Dallas Cowboys** 13

**Attendance:** 79,204

**MVP:** Chuck Howley (LB), Cowboys
2 interceptions, 3 tackles

**How They Got There:** Baltimore – d. Cincinnati, 17-0; d. Oakland, 27-17 (AFC Championship). Dallas – d. Detroit, 5-0; d. San Francisco, 17-10 (NFC Championship).

**A 32-yard field goal** by rookie kicker Jim O'Brien brought the Colts to victory in the closing seconds of Super Bowl V, the first time the game was played on artificial turf. Dallas led, 13-6, at the half, but interceptions by Rick Volk and Mike Curtis set up a Baltimore touchdown and O'Brien's decisive kick. Johnny Unitas passed for the Colts' only touchdown – a throw that caromed off receiver Eddie Hinton's fingertips, off Dallas' Mel Renfro, and settled into the hands of John Mackey, who scored on the 75-yard play. The Cowboys' Chuck Howley became the first defensive player and the first (and still only) player from a losing team to be named Super Bowl MVP.

### ORANGE BOWL
### Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 0 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 16 |
| Dallas | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 13 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** Clark 14 FG, 9:28

**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Clark 30 FG, 0:08
**BAL** Mackey 75 pass from Unitas (kick blocked), 0:50
**DAL** Thomas 7 pass from Morton (Clark kick), 7:07

**4th Quarter**
**BAL** Nowatzke 2 run (O'Brien kick), 7:25
**BAL** O'Brien 32 FG, 14:55

## SUPER BOWL VI
### JANUARY 16, 1972

**Dallas Cowboys** 24
**Miami Dolphins** 3

**Attendance:** 81,023

**MVP:** Roger Staubach (QB), Cowboys
12 of 19 passing, 119 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Dallas – d. Minnesota, 20-12; d. San Francisco, 14-3 (NFC Championship). Miami – d. Kansas City, 27-24 in OT; d. Baltimore Colts, 21-0 (AFC Championship).

**The Cowboys rushed** for 252 yards and their defense limited the Dolphins to just 185 total yards as Dallas became the first team to not allow a touchdown in the Super Bowl. Chuck Howley's recovery of a Larry Csonka fumble led to a 3-0 Dallas advantage, and a Roger Staubach TD pass to Lance Alworth helped make it 10-3 at the break. After the Cowboys received the second-half kickoff, Duane Thomas keyed a 71-yard march that ended with his 3-yard scoring run. Early in the fourth quarter, Howley picked off a pass that he returned to the Miami 9, and three plays later Staubach passed 7 yards to Mike Ditka for the game's final touchdown. Thomas finished with 95 rushing yards and teammate Walt Garrison added 74.

### TULANE STADIUM
### New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 24 |
| Miami | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** Clark 9 FG, 13:37

**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Alworth 7 pass from Staubach (Clark kick), 13:45
**MIA** Yepremian 31 FG, 14:56

**3rd Quarter**
**DAL** D. Thomas 3 run (Clark kick), 5:17

**4th Quarter**
**DAL** Ditka 7 pass from Staubach (Clark kick), 3:18

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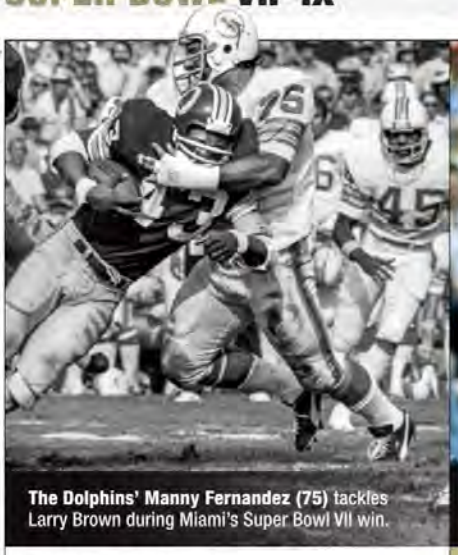
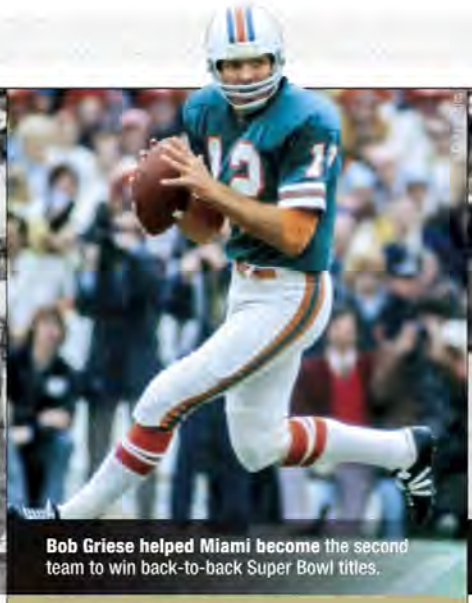


AP Images

**The Dolphins' Manny Fernandez (75)** tackles Larry Brown during Miami's Super Bowl VII win.



**Bob Griese helped Miami become** the second team to win back-to-back Super Bowl titles.

Sylvia Allen/Getty Images

**Franco Harris ran to MVP honors** in the Steelers' Super Bowl IX victory.

## SUPER BOWL VII
**JANUARY 14, 1973**

**Miami Dolphins** 14
**Washington Redskins** 7

**Attendance:** 90,182

**MVP:** Jake Scott (S), Dolphins
2 interceptions

**How They Got There:** Miami – d. Cleveland, 20-14; d. Pittsburgh, 21-17 (AFC Championship). Washington – d. Green Bay, 16-3; d. Dallas, 26-3 (NFC Championship).

**On their way to perfection,** the Dolphins played virtually perfect football in the first half against the Redskins. Their defense allowed Washington to cross midfield only once and their offense turned good field position into two touchdowns. Miami drove 63 yards for its first score, a 28-yard pass from Bob Griese to Howard Twilley. After the Redskins reached the Miami 48 late in the first half, linebacker Nick Buoniconti intercepted a pass that he returned 25 yards. Five plays later, just 18 seconds before intermission, Jim Kiick scored on a 1-yard run. Dolphins safety Jake Scott had two interceptions, one in the end zone that ended another Redskins threat.

### MEMORIAL COLISEUM
### Los Angeles, Calif.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Washington | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |

**1st Quarter**
**MIA** Twilley 28 pass from Griese (Yepremian kick),14:59

**2nd Quarter**
**MIA** Kiick 1 run (Yepremian kick), 14:42

**4th Quarter**
**WAS** Bass 49 fumble return (Knight kick), 12:53

## SUPER BOWL VIII
**JANUARY 13, 1974**

**Miami Dolphins** 24
**Minnesota Vikings** 7

**Attendance:** 71,882

**MVP:** Larry Csonka (RB), Dolphins
33 carries, 145 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Miami – d. Cincinnati, 34-16; d. Oakland, 27-10 (AFC Championship). Minnesota – d. Washington, 27-20; d. Dallas, 27-10 (NFC Championship).

**The Dolphins,** representing the AFC for the third straight year, scored the first two times they had the ball – on marches of 62 and 56 yards – while their defense limited Minnesota to only seven plays in the first quarter. Larry Csonka capped the initial 10-play drive with his 5-yard TD bolt through right guard, and another 10-play scoring drive ended with Jim Kiick bursting 1 yard through the middle. Garo Yepremian's 28-yard field goal made it 17-0. The Vikings would then drive deep into Miami territory, but were stopped on fourth-and-1 from the 6 on a big hit by middle linebacker Nick Buoniconti.

### RICE STADIUM
### Houston, Texas

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Miami | 14 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 24 |

**1st Quarter**
**MIA** Csonka 5 run (Yepremian kick), 5:27
**MIA** Kiick 1 run (Yepremian kick), 13:38

**2nd Quarter**
**MIA** Yepremian 28 FG, 8:58

**3rd Quarter**
**MIA** Csonka 2 run (Yepremian kick), 6:16

**4th Quarter**
**MIN** Tarkenton 4 run (Cox kick), 1:35

## SUPER BOWL IX
**JANUARY 12, 1975**

**Pittsburgh Steelers** 16
**Minnesota Vikings** 6

**Attendance:** 80,997

**MVP:** Franco Harris (RB), Steelers
34 carries, 158 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. Buffalo, 32-14; d. Oakland, 24-13 (AFC Championship). Minnesota – d. St. Louis Cardinals, 30-14; d. L.A. Rams, 14-10 (NFC Championship).

**Pittsburgh's football** history began a new chapter when the Steelers defeated the Vikings, the first of four Super Bowl titles won under coach Chuck Noll. The teams struggled through a first half that saw the only points produced when Pittsburgh's Dwight White downed quarterback Fran Tarkenton in the end zone for a safety. But it didn't take long for the Steelers to add to that lead after intermission. Minnesota's Bill Brown fumbled the second-half kickoff and Marv Kellum recovered on the Vikings 30. Four plays later, Franco Harris' 9-yard touchdown run gave his team a 9-0 lead. Pittsburgh's powerful defense permitted only 119 yards on the day, including 17 rushing yards.

### TULANE STADIUM
### New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 16 |
| Minnesota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |

**2nd Quarter**
**PIT** Safety White 0, 7:49

**3rd Quarter**
**PIT** Harris 9 run (Gerela kick), 1:35

**4th Quarter**
**MIN** T. Brown 0 blocked punt return (kick failed), 4:27
**PIT** Brown 4 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick),11:29

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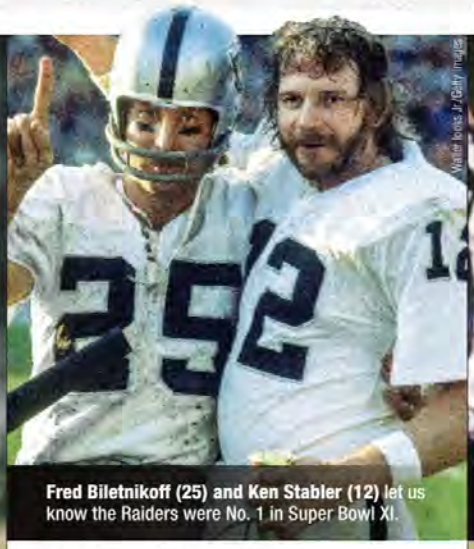
Tony Tomsic/USA TODAY Sports

**Chuck Noll was at the helm** for the Steelers' first four Super Bowl championships.



Walter Iooss Jr./Getty Images

**Fred Biletnikoff (25) and Ken Stabler (12)** let us know the Raiders were No. 1 in Super Bowl XI.

Getty Images

**Tony Dorsett reaches the end zone** with the game's first TD in Dallas' Super Bowl XII win.

## SUPER BOWL X
**JANUARY 18, 1976**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pittsburgh Steelers** | 21 |
| **Dallas Cowboys** | 17 |

**Attendance:** 80,187

**MVP:** Lynn Swann (WR), Steelers
4 receptions, 161 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. Baltimore Colts, 28-10; d. Oakland, 16-10 (AFC Championship). Dallas – d. Minnesota, 17-14; d. L.A. Rams, 37-7 (NFC Championship).

**Pittsburgh captured** the Super Bowl for the second straight year, helped along by Terry Bradshaw's 64-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann and an aggressive defense that snuffed out a late Dallas rally. The Steelers scored on Bradshaw's 7-yard TD pass to Randy Grossman and the long throw to Swann, Roy Gerela's 36- and 18-yard field goals, and Reggie Harrison's blocked punt that went through the end zone for a safety. Dallas, though, still only trailed by four when it took possession with 1:22 to go, but had its hopes dashed on Glen Edwards' end-zone interception on the game's final play.

### ORANGE BOWL
**Miami, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dallas** | 7 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 17 |
| **Pittsburgh** | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 21 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** D. Pearson 29 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick), 4:36
**PIT** Grossman 7 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick), 9:03

**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Fritsch 36 FG, 0:15

**4th Quarter**
**PIT** Safety Harrison 0, 3:32
**PIT** Gerela 36 FG, 6:19
**PIT** Gerela 18 FG, 8:23
**PIT** Swann 64 pass from Bradshaw (kick failed), 11:58
**DAL** P. Howard 34 pass from Staubach (Fritsch kick), 13:12

## SUPER BOWL XI
**JANUARY 9, 1977**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Oakland Raiders** | 32 |
| **Minnesota Vikings** | 14 |

**Attendance:** 103,438

**MVP:** Fred Biletnikoff (WR), Raiders
4 receptions, 79 yards

**How They Got There:** Oakland – d. New England, 24-21; d. Pittsburgh, 24-7 (AFC Championship). Minnesota – d. Washington, 35-20; d. L.A. Rams, 24-13 (NFC Championship).

**In front of 81 million** television viewers, the largest audience ever to watch a sporting event, the Raiders won their first Super Bowl title. Clarence Davis rushed for 137 yards, Fred Biletnikoff made four key receptions, and the defense came up big for the victors. Oakland built a 16-0 halftime lead – on Errol Mann's 24-yard field goal, a 1-yard TD pass from Ken Stabler to Dave Casper, and Pete Banaszak's 1-yard scoring run. After the Vikings cut the deficit to 19-7, a pair of fourth-quarter interceptions clinched the championship for the Raiders. One set up Banaszak's second touchdown run, while the other resulted in cornerback Willie Brown's 75-yard interception return for a score.

### ROSE BOWL
**Pasadena, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Oakland** | 0 | 16 | 3 | 13 | 32 |
| **Minnesota** | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 14 |

**2nd Quarter**
**OAK** Mann 24 FG, 0:48
**OAK** Casper 1 pass from Stabler (Mann kick), 7:50
**OAK** Banaszak 1 run (kick failed),11:27

**3rd Quarter**
**OAK** Mann 40 FG, 9:44
**MIN** S. White 8 pass from Tarkenton (Cox kick), 14:13

**4th Quarter**
**OAK** Banaszak 2 run (Mann kick), 7:21
**OAK** Brown 75 interception return (kick failed), 9:17
**MIN** Voigt 13 pass from Lee (Cox kick), 14:35

## SUPER BOWL XII
**JANUARY 15, 1978**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dallas Cowboys** | 27 |
| **Denver Broncos** | 10 |

**Attendance:** 75,583

**MVPs:** Randy White (DT) and Harvey Martin (DE), Cowboys
Leaders of a defense that had four sacks and allowed just 156 total yards

**How They Got There:** Dallas – d. Chicago, 37-7; d. Minnesota, 23-6 (NFC Championship). Denver – d. Pittsburgh, 34-21; d. Oakland, 20-17 (AFC Championship).

**Super Bowl TV** viewership exceeded 100 million for the first time, and those fans saw Dallas turn two interceptions into 10 points and Efren Herrera add a 35-yard field goal for a 13-0 halftime lead. The Cowboys then tacked on two second-half TDs, the first on Butch Johnson's spectacular diving catch in the end zone and the other when running back Robert Newhouse tossed a 29-yard pass to Golden Richards. Dallas' defense forced eight turnovers in the win.

### SUPERDOME
**New Orleans, La.**

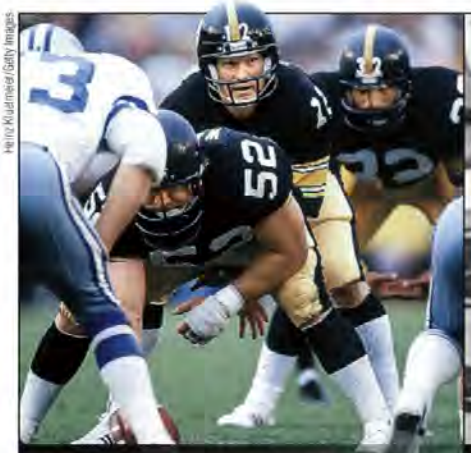
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dallas** | 10 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 27 |
| **Denver** | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** Dorsett 3 run (Herrera kick), 10:31
**DAL** Herrera 35 FG, 13:29

**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Herrera 43 FG, 3:44

**3rd Quarter**
**DEN** Turner 47 FG, 2:28
**DAL** Johnson 45 pass from Staubach (Herrera kick), 8:01
**DEN** Lytle 1 run (Turner kick), 9:21

**4th Quarter**
**DAL** Richards 29 pass from Newhouse (Herrera kick), 7:56

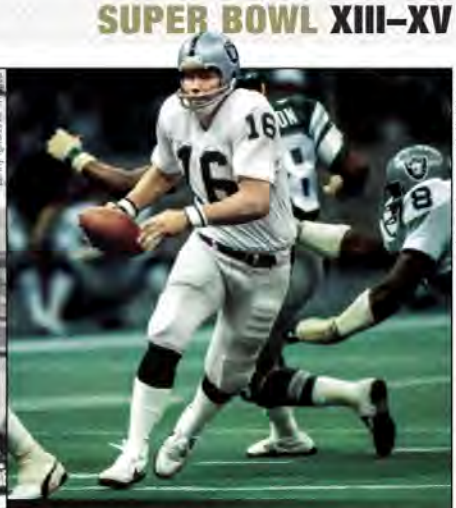


Heinz Kluetmeier/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images

**Terry Bradshaw (12) threw for four TDs** as the Steelers beat Dallas in the first Super Bowl rematch.

Larry Ciesla/AP Images

**Lynn Swann (88) and Bennie Cunningham (89)** celebrate a Pittsburgh touchdown in Super Bowl XIV.



Malcolm Emmons/USA TODAY Sports

**Jim Plunkett took the Raiders** from the wild card to the world title by winning Super Bowl XV.

## SUPER BOWL XIII
**JANUARY 21, 1979**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pittsburgh Steelers** | 35 |
| **Dallas Cowboys** | 31 |

**Attendance:** 79,484

**MVP:** Terry Bradshaw (QB), Steelers
17 of 30 passing, 318 yards, 4 TDs

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. Denver, 33-10; d. Houston Oilers, 34-5 (AFC Championship). Dallas – d. Atlanta, 27-20; d. L.A. Rams, 28-0 (NFC Championship).

**Terry Bradshaw's** four touchdown passes led the Steelers, who became the first team to win three Super Bowls. The first two scoring tosses went to John Stallworth, and the third, with 26 seconds remaining in the second quarter, was to Rocky Bleier for a 21-14 halftime lead. The Steelers then broke things open with TDs 19 seconds apart midway through the final period – Franco Harris rambled 22 yards for a score, and after Dennis Winston recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Bradshaw fired an 18-yard strike to Lynn Swann.

### ORANGE BOWL
### Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Pittsburgh** | 7 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 35 |
| **Dallas** | 7 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 31 |

**1st Quarter**
**PIT** Stallworth 28 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick), 5:13
**DAL** Hill 39 pass from Staubach (Septien kick), 15:00

**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Hegman 37 fumble return (Septien kick), 2:52
**PIT** Stallworth 75 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick), 4:35
**PIT** Bleier 7 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick), 14:34

**3rd Quarter**
**DAL** Septien 27 FG, 12:24

**4th Quarter**
**PIT** Harris 22 run (Gerela kick), 7:50
**PIT** Swann 18 pass from Bradshaw (Gerela kick), 8:09
**DAL** DuPree 7 pass from Staubach (Septien kick), 12:33
**DAL** Johnson 4 pass from Staubach (Septien kick), 14:38

## SUPER BOWL XIV
**JANUARY 20, 1980**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pittsburgh Steelers** | 31 |
| **Los Angeles Rams** | 19 |

**Attendance:** 103,985

**MVP:** Terry Bradshaw (QB), Steelers
14 of 21 passing, 309 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. Miami, 34-14; d. Houston Oilers, 27-13 (AFC Championship). Los Angeles – d. Dallas, 21-19; d. Tampa Bay, 9-0 (NFC Championship).

**Trailing 13-10 at halftime,** the Steelers rallied to win their fourth Super Bowl crown in six years. They briefly moved ahead in the third quarter when Terry Bradshaw hit Lynn Swann on a 47-yard TD pass, but the Rams responded on their next possession with Lawrence McCutcheon throwing a halfback option touchdown to Ron Smith. The Steelers would finally go ahead to stay in the fourth quarter on Bradshaw's 73-yard touchdown throw to John Stallworth. After stopping an L.A. threat with a Jack Lambert interception, they sealed the verdict on Franco Harris' 1-yard TD run.

### ROSE BOWL
### Pasadena, Calif.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Los Angeles Rams** | 7 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 19 |
| **Pittsburgh** | 3 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 31 |

**1st Quarter**
**PIT** Bahr 41 FG, 7:29
**LA** Bryant 1 run (Corral kick), 12:16

**2nd Quarter**
**PIT** Harris 1 run (Bahr kick), 2:08
**LA** Corral 31 FG, 7:39
**LA** Corral 45 FG, 14:46

**3rd Quarter**
**PIT** Swann 47 pass from Bradshaw (Bahr kick), 2:48
**LA** R. Smith 24 pass from McCutcheon (kick failed), 4:45

**4th Quarter**
**PIT** Stallworth 73 pass from Bradshaw (Bahr kick), 2:56
**PIT** Harris 1 run (Bahr kick), 13:11

## SUPER BOWL XV
**JANUARY 25, 1981**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Oakland Raiders** | 27 |
| **Philadelphia Eagles** | 10 |

**Attendance:** 76,135

**MVP:** Jim Plunkett (QB), Raiders
13 of 21 passing, 261 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** Oakland – d. Houston Oilers, 27-7; d. Cleveland, 14-12; d. San Diego Chargers, 34-27 (AFC Championship). Philadelphia – d. Minnesota, 31-16; d. Dallas, 20-7 (NFC Championship).

**Jim Plunkett passed** for three touchdowns, including an 80-yard strike to Kenny King late in the first quarter, as the Raiders became the first wild card team to win the Super Bowl. Linebacker Rod Martin set up Oakland's first touchdown with an interception, one of a Super Bowl-record three he had in the game, while King's grab marked the longest play in Super Bowl history at the time. Oakland's Mark van Eeghen led all rushers with 75 yards, while teammate Cliff Branch had five receptions for 67 yards, including two catches that went for touchdowns.

### SUPERDOME
### New Orleans, La.

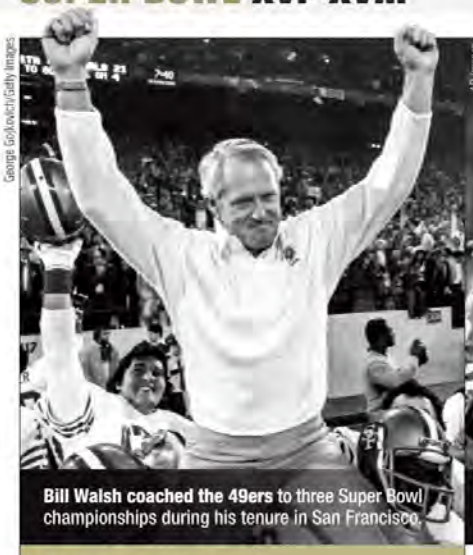
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Oakland** | 14 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 27 |
| **Philadelphia** | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 10 |

**1st Quarter**
**OAK** Branch 2 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick), 6:04
**OAK** King 80 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick), 14:51

**2nd Quarter**
**PHI** Franklin 30 FG, 4:32

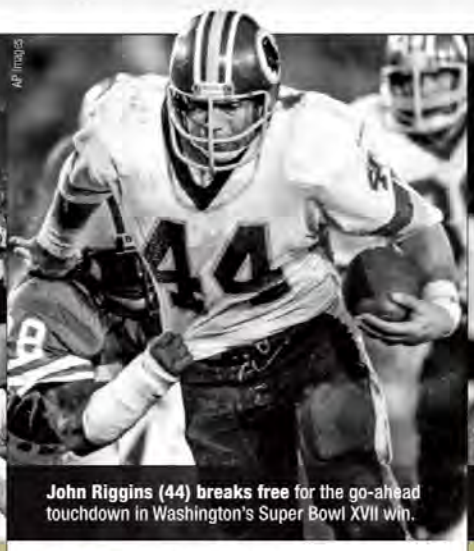
**3rd Quarter**
**OAK** Branch 29 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick), 2:36
**OAK** Bahr 46 FG, 10:25

**4th Quarter**
**PHI** Krepfle 8 pass from Jaworski (Franklin kick), 1:01
**OAK** Bahr 35 FG, 6:31



George Gojkovich/Getty Images

**Bill Walsh coached the 49ers** to three Super Bowl championships during his tenure in San Francisco.



AP Photo

**John Riggins (44) breaks free** for the go-ahead touchdown in Washington's Super Bowl XVII win.

Rob Brown/Getty Image

**Marcus Allen's 74-yard touchdown** sparked the Raiders' run to a third Super Bowl title.

## SUPER BOWL XVI
**JANUARY 24, 1982**

**San Francisco 49ers** 26
**Cincinnati Bengals** 21

**Attendance:** 81,270

**MVP:** Joe Montana (QB), 49ers
14 of 22 passing, 157 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** San Francisco – d. N.Y. Giants, 38-24; d. Dallas, 28-27 (NFC Championship). Cincinnati – d. Buffalo, 28-21; d. San Diego Chargers, 27-7 (AFC Championship).

**Ray Wersching's** Super Bowl record-tying four field goals and Joe Montana's controlled passing lifted the 49ers to their first NFL championship. San Francisco owned a 20-0 halftime lead thanks to Montana's 1-yard TD run, Earl Cooper's 11-yard scoring catch, and 22- and 26-yard field goals from Wersching. The Bengals closed the gap on Ken Anderson's 5-yard run and Dan Ross' 4-yard TD grab, but the 49ers' kicker padded the lead with two fourth-quarter field goals. Cincinnati outgained San Francisco, 356-275, making it the first time in Super Bowl history that the losing team had more total yards.

### SILVERDOME
### Pontiac, Mich.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Francisco | 7 | 13 | 0 | 6 | 26 |
| Cincinnati | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 21 |

**1st Quarter**
**SF** Montana 1 run (Wersching kick), 9:08

**2nd Quarter**
**SF** E. Cooper 11 pass from Montana (Wersching kick), 8:07
**SF** Wersching 22 FG, 14:45
**SF** Wersching 26 FG, 14:58

**3rd Quarter**
**CIN** Anderson 5 run (Breech kick), 3:35

**4th Quarter**
**CIN** Ross 4 pass from Anderson (Breech kick), 4:54
**SF** Wersching 40 FG, 9:35
**SF** Wersching 23 FG, 13:03
**CIN** Ross 3 pass from Anderson (Breech kick), 14:44

## SUPER BOWL XVII
**JANUARY 30, 1983**

**Washington Redskins** 27
**Miami Dolphins** 17

**Attendance:** 103,667

**MVP:** John Riggins (RB), Redskins
38 carries, 166 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Washington – d. Detroit, 31-7; d. Minnesota, 21-7; d. Dallas, 31-17 (NFC Championship). Miami – d. New England, 28-13; d. San Diego Chargers, 34-13; d. N.Y. Jets, 14-0 (AFC Championship).

**John Riggins topped** 100 rushing yards for the fourth straight playoff game, part of a 276-yard ground effort for the Redskins, who won their first NFL title since 1942. The Dolphins held a 17-10 halftime lead, but wouldn't score again. Mark Moseley's short field goal pulled Washington within three, and Riggins moved his team ahead when he rambled 43 yards on a fourth-and-1 play early in the fourth quarter. Charlie Brown's 6-yard TD catch with 1:55 left closed out the scoring. The Dolphins managed only 176 total yards of offense, and just 34 after intermission.

### ROSE BOWL
### Pasadena, Calif.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Washington | 0 | 10 | 3 | 14 | 27 |

**1st Quarter**
**MIA** Cefalo 76 pass from Woodley (Von Schamann kick), 6:49

**2nd Quarter**
**WAS** Moseley 31 FG, 0:21
**MIA** Von Schamann 20 FG, 9:00
**WAS** Garrett 4 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick), 13:09
**MIA** Walker 98 kickoff return (Von Schamann kick), 13:22

**3rd Quarter**
**WAS** Moseley 20 FG, 6:51

**4th Quarter**
**WAS** Riggins 43 run (Moseley kick), 4:59
**WAS** Brown 6 pass from Theismann (Moseley kick), 13:05

## SUPER BOWL XVIII
**JANUARY 22, 1984**

**Los Angeles Raiders** 38
**Washington Redskins** 9

**Attendance:** 72,920

**MVP:** Marcus Allen (RB), Raiders
20 carries, 191 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Los Angeles – d. Pittsburgh, 38-10; d. Seattle, 30-14 (AFC Championship). Washington – d. L.A. Rams, 51-7; d. San Francisco, 24-21 (NFC Championship).

**Derrick Jensen's** end-zone recovery of a punt he blocked – giving his team a 7-0 lead less than five minutes into the game – put the Raiders on course for a one-sided victory. Two key plays sealed Washington's fate. With just seven seconds left in the first half, Raiders linebacker Jack Squirek intercepted a pass at the Redskins 5-yard line that he ran in for a touchdown to give Los Angeles a 21-3 lead. Then, on the final play of the third quarter, game MVP Marcus Allen darted 74 yards for a backbreaking touchdown.

### TAMPA STADIUM
### Tampa, Fla.

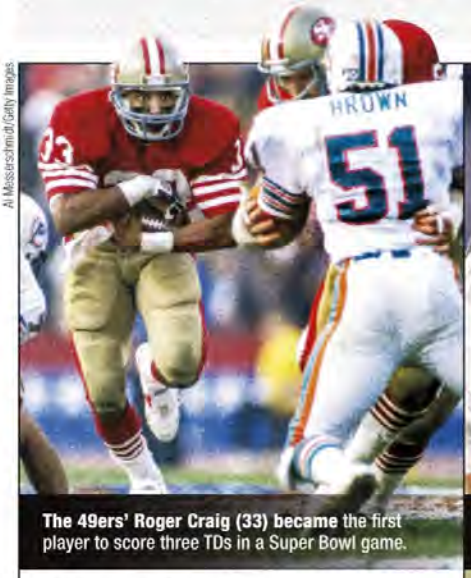
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Los Angeles Raiders | 7 | 14 | 14 | 3 | 38 |

**1st Quarter**
**LA** Jensen 0 blocked punt return (Bahr kick), 4:52

**2nd Quarter**
**LA** Branch 12 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick), 5:46
**WAS** Moseley 24 FG, 11:55
**LA** Squirek 5 interception return (Bahr kick), 14:53

**3rd Quarter**
**WAS** Riggins 1 run (kick blocked), 4:08
**LA** Allen 5 run (Bahr kick), 7:54
**LA** Allen 74 run (Bahr kick), 15:00

**4th Quarter**
**LA** Bahr 21 FG, 12:36


Al Messerschmidt/Getty Images

**The 49ers' Roger Craig (33) became** the first player to score three TDs in a Super Bowl game.

**It was sweet victory** for the legendary Walter Payton and the Bears in Super Bowl XX.

Amy Sancetta/AP Images

**No quarterback has been more accurate** in a Super Bowl than the Giants' Phil Simms.

## SUPER BOWL XIX
**JANUARY 20, 1985**

**San Francisco 49ers** 38
**Miami Dolphins** 16

**Attendance:** 84,059

**MVP:** Joe Montana (QB), 49ers
24 of 35 passing, 331 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** San Francisco – d. N.Y. Giants, 21-10; d. Chicago, 23-0 (NFC Championship). Miami – d. Seattle, 31-10; d. Pittsburgh, 45-28 (AFC Championship).

**San Francisco piled up** 537 net yards as Joe Montana got the best of Dan Marino in this battle of future Hall of Fame QBs. Roger Craig became the first player to score three TDs in a Super Bowl game, one of those on an 8-yard TD reception that gave the 49ers a lead they would never relinquish. He added a short touchdown run before halftime and would close out San Francisco's scoring with a 16-yard reception from Montana. Craig finished with 58 yards rushing and caught seven passes for another 77 yards. The 49ers also held a 37:11 to 22:49 time of possession advantage over the Dolphins.

### STANFORD STADIUM
**Stanford, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| San Francisco | 7 | 21 | 10 | 0 | 38 |

**1st Quarter**
**MIA** Von Schamann 37 FG, 7:36
**SF** Monroe 33 pass from Montana (Wersching kick), 11:48
**MIA** D. Johnson 2 pass from Marino (Von Schamann kick), 14:15

**2nd Quarter**
**SF** Craig 8 pass from Montana (Wersching kick), 3:26
**SF** Montana 6 run (Wersching kick), 8:02
**SF** Craig 2 run (Wersching kick), 12:55
**MIA** Von Schamann 31 FG, 14:48
**MIA** Von Schamann 30 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
**SF** Wersching 27 FG, 4:48
**SF** Craig 16 pass from Montana (Wersching kick), 8:42

## SUPER BOWL XX
**JANUARY 26, 1986**

**Chicago Bears** 46
**New England Patriots** 10

**Attendance:** 73,818

**MVP:** Richard Dent (DE), Bears
1.5 sacks, defense allowed 7 rushing yards

**How They Got There:** Chicago – d. N.Y. Giants, 21-0; d. L.A. Rams, 24-0 (NFC Championship). New England – d. N.Y. Jets, 26-14; d. L.A. Raiders, 27-20; d. Miami, 31-14 (AFC Championship).

**In a dominating display** from start to finish, the Bears' league-leading defense recorded seven sacks and limited the Patriots to just seven rushing yards. Chicago yielded an early field goal, but then scored the game's next 44 points. QB Jim McMahon and Matt Suhey had scoring runs, and Kevin Butler kicked three field goals, to give the Bears a 23-3 halftime lead. After forcing a Patriots punt to start the second half, Chicago marched 96 yards for another TD to put the game out of reach. Bears RB Walter Payton rushed for 61 yards, while Richard Dent became just the fifth defender to be named Super Bowl MVP.

### SUPERDOME
**New Orleans, La.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 13 | 10 | 21 | 2 | 46 |
| New England | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 10 |

**1st Quarter**
**NE** Franklin 36 FG, 1:19
**CHI** Butler 28 FG, 5:40
**CHI** Butler 24 FG, 13:34
**CHI** Suhey 11 run (Butler kick), 14:37

**2nd Quarter**
**CHI** McMahon 2 run (Butler kick), 7:36
**CHI** Butler 24 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
**CHI** McMahon 1 run (Butler kick), 7:38
**CHI** Phillips 28 interception return (Butler kick), 8:44
**CHI** Perry 1 run (Butler kick), 11:38

**4th Quarter**
**NE** Fryar 8 pass from Grogan (Franklin kick), 1:46
**CHI** Safety Waechter 0, 9:24

## SUPER BOWL XXI
**JANUARY 25, 1987**

**New York Giants** 39
**Denver Broncos** 20

**Attendance:** 101,063

**MVP:** Phil Simms (QB), Giants
22 of 25 passing, 268 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** New York – d. San Francisco, 49-3; d. Washington, 17-0 (NFC Championship). Denver – d. New England, 22-17; d. Cleveland, 23-20 in OT (AFC Championship).

**Buoyed by a big defensive** stand in the second quarter, the Giants captured their first NFL title since 1956. The Broncos had a first down at the New York 1-yard line, but were stymied on three running plays and then missed a short field goal attempt. The Giants would take command in the third quarter en route to a 30-point second half, and moved in front for good on Mark Bavaro's 13-yard touchdown reception. Phil Simms deftly managed the game for the victors, setting a Super Bowl record by completing 88 precent of his passes.

### ROSE BOWL
**Pasadena, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 20 |
| New York Giants | 7 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 39 |

**1st Quarter**
**DEN** Karlis 48 FG, 4:09
**NYG** Mowatt 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick),9:33
**DEN** Elway 4 run (Karlis kick), 12:54

**2nd Quarter**
**NYG** Safety Martin 0, 12:14

**3rd Quarter**
**NYG** Bavaro 13 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 4:52
**NYG** Allegre 21 FG, 11:06
**NYG** Morris 1 run (Allegre kick), 14:36

**4th Quarter**
**NYG** McConkey 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 4:04
**DEN** Karlis 28 FG, 8:59
**NYG** Anderson 2 run (kick failed),11:42
**DEN** Johnson 47 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 12:54

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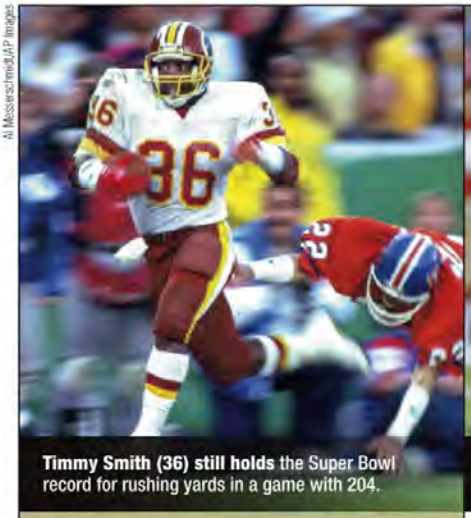
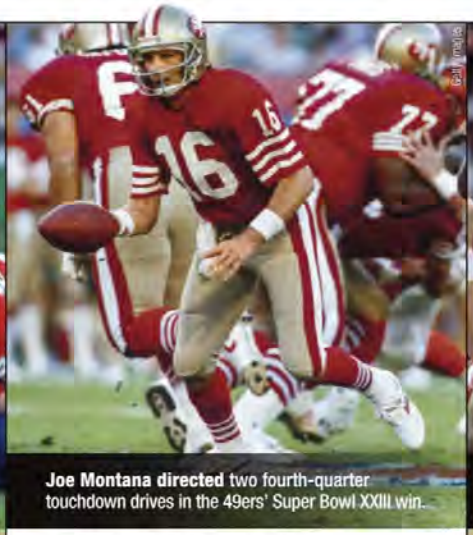

Al Messerschmidt/AP Images

**Timmy Smith (36) still holds** the Super Bowl record for rushing yards in a game with 204.


Bill Haber/AP Images

**Joe Montana directed** two fourth-quarter touchdown drives in the 49ers' Super Bowl XXIII win.

John Gaps III/AP Images

**Jerry Rice (80) and the 49ers** rose above the competition en route to the Super Bowl XXIV title.

## SUPER BOWL XXII
**JANUARY 31, 1988**

**Washington Redskins** 42
**Denver Broncos** 10

**Attendance:** 73,302

**MVP:** Doug Williams (QB), Redskins
18 of 29 passing, 340 yards, 4 TDs

**How They Got There:** Washington – d. Chicago, 21-17; d. Minnesota, 17-10 (NFC Championship). Denver – d. Houston Oilers, 34-10; d. Cleveland, 38-33 (AFC Championship).

**The Redskins enjoyed** a record-setting second quarter en route to victory. Trailing 10-0, Washington scored touchdowns on five straight possessions – establishing an NFL postseason mark for most points (35) in a period. QB Doug Williams led the way by passing for four TDs, including 80- and 50-yard bombs to Ricky Sanders, and the five TDs required only 18 total plays and 5:47 in possession. Timmy Smith amassed a Super Bowl-record 204 rushing yards (a mark that still stands), Barry Wilburn had two of the Redskins' three interceptions, and Alvin Walton recorded two of the team's five sacks.

### JACK MURPHY STADIUM
San Diego, Calif.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 0 | 35 | 0 | 7 | 42 |
| Denver | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |

**1st Quarter**
**DEN** Nattiel 56 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 1:57
**DEN** Karlis 24 FG, 5:51

**2nd Quarter**
**WAS** Sanders 80 pass from D. Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 0:53
**WAS** Clark 27 pass from D. Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 4:45
**WAS** Smith 58 run (Haji-Sheikh kick), 8:33
**WAS** Sanders 50 pass from D. Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 11:18
**WAS** Didier 8 pass from D. Williams (Haji-Sheikh kick), 13:56

**4th Quarter**
**WAS** Smith 4 run (Haji-Sheikh kick), 1:51

## SUPER BOWL XXIII
**JANUARY 22, 1989**

**San Francisco 49ers** 20
**Cincinnati Bengals** 16

**Attendance:** 75,129

**MVP:** Jerry Rice (WR), 49ers
11 receptions, 215 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** San Francisco – d. Minnesota, 34-9; d. Chicago, 28-3 (NFC Championship). Cincinnati – d. Seattle, 21-13; d. Buffalo, 21-10 (AFC Championship).

**By scoring on one of** the most famous and clutch drives in league history, the 49ers became the first NFC team to win three Super Bowls. Cincinnati had taken a 16-13 lead on Jim Breech's 40-yard field goal with 3:20 remaining, but Joe Montana calmly drove San Francisco 92 yards over 11 plays, culminated with his 10-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with just 34 seconds remaining. It was Taylor's lone catch of the game. Montana completed 23 of 36 passes for 357 yards, helping San Francisco post a 453 to 229 advantage in total yards.

### JOE ROBBIE STADIUM
Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 0 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 16 |
| San Francisco | 3 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 20 |

**1st Quarter**
**SF** Cofer 41 FG, 11:46

**2nd Quarter**
**CIN** Breech 34 FG, 13:41

**3rd Quarter**
**CIN** Breech 43 FG, 9:15
**SF** Cofer 32 FG, 14:10
**CIN** Jennings 93 kickoff return (Breech kick), 14:26

**4th Quarter**
**SF** Rice 14 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 0:57
**CIN** Breech 40 FG, 11:40
**SF** Taylor 10 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 14:26

## SUPER BOWL XXIV
**JANUARY 28, 1990**

**San Francisco 49ers** 55
**Denver Broncos** 10

**Attendance:** 72,919

**MVP:** Joe Montana (QB), 49ers
22 of 29 passing, 297 yards, 5 TDs

**How They Got There:** San Francisco – d. Minnesota, 41-13; d. L.A. Rams, 30-3 (NFC Championship). Denver – d. Pittsburgh, 24-23; d. Cleveland, 37-21 (AFC Championship).

**The 49ers coasted to victory** while setting a Super Bowl record for points that still stands. They scored touchdowns on four of their six first-half possessions to take a 27-3 lead at intermission, then cemented their advantage with interceptions by Michael Walter and Chet Brooks to end Denver's first two drives of the second half. Joe Montana was named Super Bowl MVP for a then-record third time, with his favorite target being Jerry Rice, who caught seven passes for 148 yards and three touchdowns. The 49ers' dominance extended to first downs (28 to 12), net yards (461 to 167), and time of possession (39:31 to 20:29).

### SUPERDOME
New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Francisco | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 55 |
| Denver | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 10 |

**1st Quarter**
**SF** Rice 20 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 4:54
**DEN** Treadwell 42 FG, 8:13
**SF** Jones 7 pass from Montana (kick failed), 14:57

**2nd Quarter**
**SF** Rathman 1 run (Cofer kick), 7:45
**SF** Rice 38 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 14:26

**3rd Quarter**
**SF** Rice 28 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 2:12
**SF** Taylor 35 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 5:16
**DEN** Elway 3 run (Treadwell kick), 8:07

**4th Quarter**
**SF** Rathman 3 run (Cofer kick), 0:03
**SF** Craig 1 run (Cofer kick), 1:13

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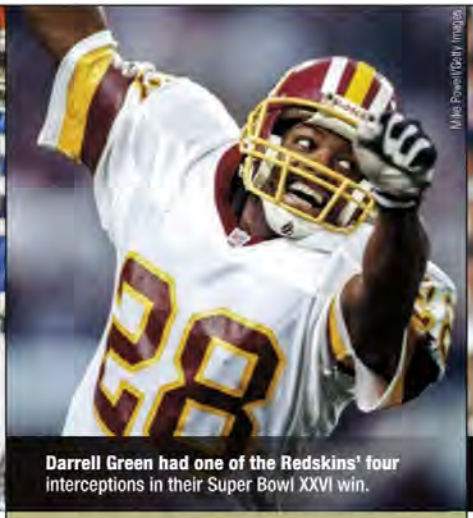
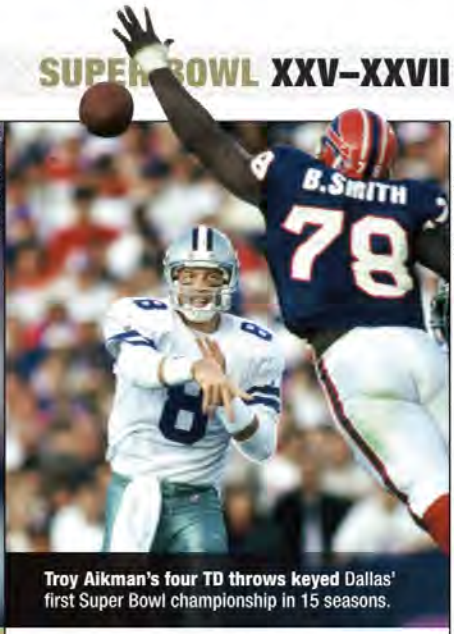
Al Messerschmidt/AP Images

**Giants coach Bill Parcells watches** the action unfold during his team's Super Bowl XXV victory.


Mike Powell/Getty Images

**Darrell Green had one of the Redskins' four** interceptions in their Super Bowl XXVI win.



Michael Zagaris/Getty Images

**Troy Aikman's four TD throws keyed** Dallas' first Super Bowl championship in 15 seasons.

## SUPER BOWL XXV
**JANUARY 27, 1991**

| | |
|---|---|
| **New York Giants** | 20 |
| **Buffalo Bills** | 19 |

**Attendance:** 73,813

**MVP:** Ottis Anderson (RB), Giants
102 rushing yards, 1 TD; 5 receptions

**How They Got There:** New York – d. Chicago, 31-3; d. San Francisco, 15-13 (NFC Championship). Buffalo – d. Miami, 44-34; d. L.A. Raiders, 51-3 (AFC Championship).

**Successfully employing** a ball-control offense that saw them keep possession for more than 40 minutes, the Giants edged the high-powered Bills. Fourteen of New York's 73 plays came on its opening drive of the third quarter, which consumed a Super Bowl-record 9:29 and ended with Ottis Anderson's 1-yard touchdown run. A Thurman Thomas TD jaunt put Buffalo back in front, but Matt Bahr gave New York the lead for good with his field goal midway through the fourth quarter. The Bills had a chance at victory in the final seconds, but Scott Norwood's 47-yard field-goal attempt sailed wide right.

### TAMPA STADIUM
**Tampa, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Buffalo** | 3 | 9 | 0 | 7 | 19 |
| **New York Giants** | 3 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 20 |

**1st Quarter**
**NYG** Bahr 28 FG, 7:46
**BUF** Norwood 23 FG, 9:09

**2nd Quarter**
**BUF** D. Smith 1 run (Norwood kick), 2:30
**BUF** Safety B. Smith 0, 6:33
**NYG** Baker 14 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick), 14:35

**3rd Quarter**
**NYG** Anderson 1 run (Bahr kick), 9:29

**4th Quarter**
**BUF** Thomas 31 run (Norwood kick), 0:08
**NYG** Bahr 21 FG, 7:40

## SUPER BOWL XXVI
**JANUARY 26, 1992**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Washington Redskins** | 37 |
| **Buffalo Bills** | 24 |

**Attendance:** 63,130

**MVP:** Mark Rypien (QB), Redskins
18 of 33 passing, 292 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Washington – d. Atlanta, 24-7; d. Detroit, 41-10 (NFC Championship). Buffalo – d. Kansas City, 37-14; d. Denver, 10-7 (AFC Championship).

**After Buffalo had shaved** 10 points off a 24-0 deficit, Mark Rypien restored order with his 30-yard TD pass to Gary Clark that propelled Washington to its third Super Bowl win in 10 years – all of them under coach Joe Gibbs but each with a different quarterback. The Redskins held a 17-0 halftime lead and quickly extended it on Gerald Riggs' short scoring run that was set up by a Kurt Gouveia interception. It was one of four pickoffs by the Redskins' defense. Clark finished with seven catches for 114 yards and Art Monk added seven for 113 yards for the victors, who amassed 417 yards of total offense.

### METRODOME
**Minneapolis, Minn.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Washington** | 0 | 17 | 14 | 6 | 37 |
| **Buffalo** | 0 | 0 | 10 | 14 | 24 |

**2nd Quarter**
**WAS** Lohmiller 34 FG, 1:58
**WAS** Byner 10 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick), 5:06
**WAS** Riggs 1 run (Lohmiller kick), 7:43

**3rd Quarter**
**WAS** Riggs 2 run (Lohmiller kick), 0:16
**BUF** Norwood 21 FG, 3:01
**BUF** Thomas 1 run (Norwood kick), 9:02
**WAS** Clark 30 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick), 13:36

**4th Quarter**
**WAS** Lohmiller 25 FG, 0:06
**WAS** Lohmiller 39 FG, 3:24
**BUF** Metzelaars 2 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 9:01
**BUF** Beebe 4 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 11:05

## SUPER BOWL XXVII
**JANUARY 31, 1993**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dallas Cowboys** | 52 |
| **Buffalo Bills** | 17 |

**Attendance:** 98,374

**MVP:** Troy Aikman (QB), Cowboys
22 of 30 passing, 273 yards, 4 TDs

**How They Got There:** Dallas – d. Philadelphia, 34-10; d. San Francisco, 30-20 (NFC Championship). Buffalo – d. Houston Oilers, 41-38 in OT; d. Pittsburgh, 24-3; d. Miami, 29-10 (AFC Championship).

**Troy Aikman threw** for four touchdowns, Emmitt Smith rushed for 108 yards, and the Cowboys converted nine turnovers into 35 points while coasting to victory. Two of those turnovers helped the Cowboys take the lead for good late in the opening quarter. First, Dallas safety James Washington intercepted a pass that he returned to the Bills 47, setting up Aikman's 23-yard TD throw to Jay Novacek. On the next play from scrimmage, a sack by the Cowboys' Charles Haley forced a fumble that teammate Jimmie Jones scooped up and ran 2 yards for another score.

### ROSE BOWL
**Pasadena, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Buffalo** | 7 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 17 |
| **Dallas** | 14 | 14 | 3 | 21 | 52 |

**1st Quarter**
**BUF** T. Thomas 2 run (Christie kick), 5:00
**DAL** Novacek 23 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 13:24
**DAL** J. Jones 2 fumble return (Elliott kick), 13:39

**2nd Quarter**
**BUF** Christie 21 FG, 11:36
**DAL** Irvin 19 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 13:06
**DAL** Irvin 18 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 13:24

**3rd Quarter**
**DAL** FG Elliott 20, 6:39
**BUF** Beebe 40 pass from Reich (Christie kick), 15:00

**4th Quarter**
**DAL** Harper 45 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 4:56
**DAL** E. Smith 10 run (Elliott kick), 6:48
**DAL** Norton 9 fumble return (Elliott kick), 7:29

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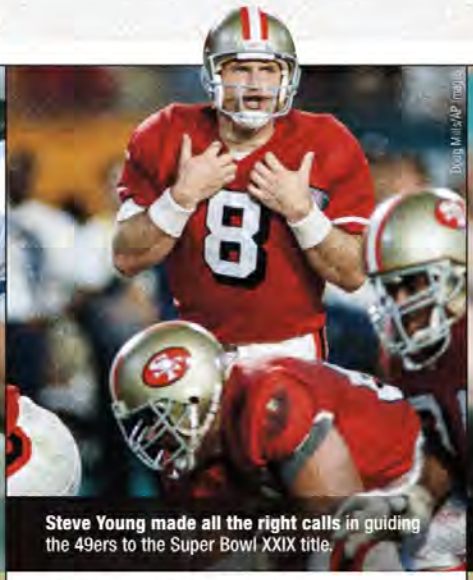
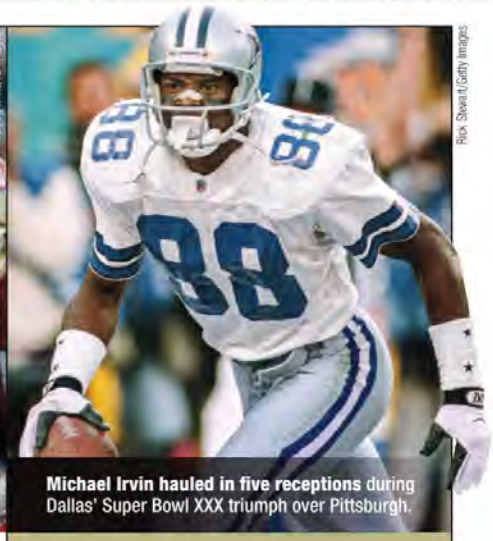
Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images

**Emmitt Smith (22) carried the Cowboys** to their second consecutive Super Bowl crown.


Doug Mills/AP Photo

**Steve Young made all the right calls** in guiding the 49ers to the Super Bowl XXIX title.


Rick Stewart/Getty Images

**Michael Irvin hauled in five receptions** during Dallas' Super Bowl XXX triumph over Pittsburgh.

## SUPER BOWL XXVIII
**JANUARY 30, 1994**

**Dallas Cowboys** 30
**Buffalo Bills** 13

**Attendance:** 72,817

**MVP:** Emmitt Smith (RB), Cowboys
30 carries, 132 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** Dallas – d. Green Bay, 27-17; d. San Francisco, 38-21 (NFC Championship). Buffalo – d. L.A. Raiders, 29-23; d. Kansas City, 30-13 (AFC Championship).

**Dallas became** the first team to begin the season 0-2 and go on to win the Super Bowl, and the fifth team to capture back-to-back Super Bowl titles. A big defensive play and Emmitt Smith's two TD runs helped the Cowboys erase a 13-6 halftime deficit. Just 55 seconds after intermission, safety James Washington recovered a fumble and weaved his way 46 yards for a touchdown to tie the game. After the Bills punted on their next possession, Smith took over, carrying seven times for 61 yards on a march that ended with his 15-yard scoring jaunt to put Dallas ahead for good. Washington added a fourth-quarter interception that led to another Smith touchdown run.

### GEORGIA DOME
**Atlanta, Ga.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dallas** | 6 | 0 | 14 | 10 | 30 |
| **Buffalo** | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 13 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** Murray 41 FG, 2:19
**BUF** Christie 54 FG, 4:41
**DAL** Murray 24 FG, 11:05

**2nd Quarter**
**BUF** Thomas 4 run (Christie kick), 2:34
**BUF** Christie 28 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
**DAL** Washington 46 fumble return (Murray kick), 0:55
**DAL** E. Smith 15 run (Murray kick), 6:18

**4th Quarter**
**DAL** E. Smith 1 run (Murray kick), 5:10
**DAL** Murray 20 FG, 12:10

## SUPER BOWL XXIX
**JANUARY 29, 1995**

**San Francisco 49ers** 49
**San Diego Chargers** 26

**Attendance:** 74,107

**MVP:** Steve Young (QB), 49ers
24 of 36 passing, 325 yards, 6 TDs

**How They Got There:** San Francisco – d. Chicago, 44-15; d. Dallas, 38-28 (NFC Championship). San Diego – d. Miami, 22-21; d. Pittsburgh, 17-13 (AFC Championship).

**Steve Young passed** for a Super Bowl-record six TDs as the 49ers became the first team to win five Super Bowls. The QB, who directed an explosive offense that generated seven touchdowns, 28 first downs, and 455 total yards, wasted little time getting his team on the scoreboard. He fired a 44-yard touchdown throw to Jerry Rice only three plays and 1:24 into the game, and made it 14-0 with a 51-yard pass to Rickey Watters on the 49ers' next possession. Both Rice and Watters scored three times in the win, and the 75 combined points established another Super Bowl record that still stands.

### JOE ROBBIE STADIUM
**Miami, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **San Diego** | 7 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 26 |
| **San Francisco** | 14 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 49 |

**1st Quarter**
**SF** Rice 44 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:24
**SF** Watters 51 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 4:55
**SD** Means 1 run (Carney kick), 12:16

**2nd Quarter**
**SF** Floyd 5 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:58
**SF** Watters 8 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 10:16
**SD** Carney 31 FG, 13:16

**3rd Quarter**
**SF** Watters 9 run (Brien kick), 5:25
**SF** Rice 15 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 11:42
**SD** Coleman 98 kickoff return (Seay pass from Humphries), 11:59

**4th Quarter**
**SF** Rice 7 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:11
**SD** Martin 30 pass from Humphries (Pupunu pass from Humphries), 12:35

## SUPER BOWL XXX
**JANUARY 28, 1996**

**Dallas Cowboys** 27
**Pittsburgh Steelers** 17

**Attendance:** 76,347

**MVP:** Larry Brown (CB), Cowboys
2 interceptions, both leading to Dallas TDs

**How They Got There:** Dallas – d. Philadelphia, 30-11; d. Green Bay, 38-27 (NFC Championship). Pittsburgh – d. Buffalo, 40-21; d. Indianapolis, 20-16 (AFC Championship).

**Cornerback Larry Brown's** two interceptions led to 14 second-half points, lifting the Cowboys to their third Super Bowl victory in four seasons and fifth title overall. Dallas scored on each of its first three possessions, taking a 13-0 lead behind Troy Aikman's 3-yard TD pass to Jay Novacek and two Chris Boniol field goals. The Steelers managed to stay close, pulling within 13-7 and then 20-17, but Brown's heroics kept Dallas ahead. Both of his pickoffs set up short scoring runs by Emmitt Smith, the second with just 3:43 remaining in the game.

### SUN DEVIL STADIUM
**Tempe, Ariz.**

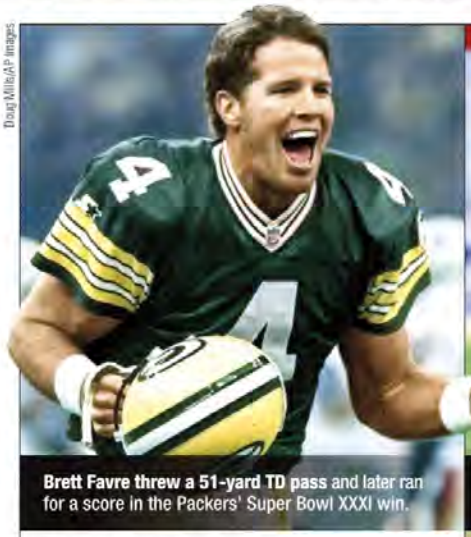
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dallas** | 10 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 27 |
| **Pittsburgh** | 0 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 17 |

**1st Quarter**
**DAL** Boniol 42 FG, 2:55
**DAL** Novacek 3 pass from Aikman (Boniol kick), 9:37

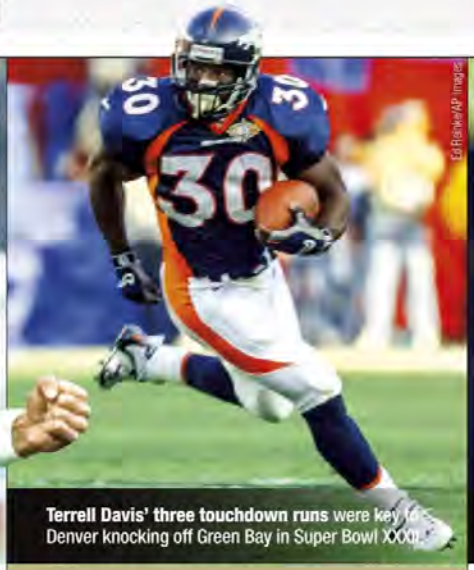
**2nd Quarter**
**DAL** Boniol 35 FG, 8:57
**PIT** Thigpen 6 pass from O'Donnell (N. Johnson kick), 14:47

**3rd Quarter**
**DAL** E. Smith 1 run (Boniol kick), 8:18

**4th Quarter**
**PIT** N. Johnson 46 FG, 3:40
**PIT** Morris 1 run (N. Johnson kick), 8:24
**DAL** E. Smith 4 run (Boniol kick), 11:17


Doug Mills/AP Images

**Brett Favre threw a 51-yard TD pass** and later ran for a score in the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI win.


Ed Reinke/AP Images

**Terrell Davis' three touchdown runs** were key to Denver knocking off Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII.

Andy Lyons/Getty Images

**John Elway and the Broncos enjoyed** an encore performance by prevailing in Super Bowl XXXIII.

## SUPER BOWL XXXI
**JANUARY 26, 1997**

**Green Bay Packers** 35
**New England Patriots** 21

**Attendance:** 72,301

**MVP:** Desmond Howard (KR-PR), Packers
244 return yards, 99-yard kickoff return for TD

**How They Got There:** Green Bay – d. San Francisco, 35-14; d. Carolina, 30-13 (NFC Championship). New England – d. Pittsburgh, 28-3; d. Jacksonville, 20-6 (AFC Championship).

**The NFC's Super Bowl** win streak reached 13 games, thanks to big plays from Brett Favre and Desmond Howard that fueled the Packers. Favre threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third, while Howard's 99-yard kickoff-return TD in the third quarter stemmed New England's momentum. On Green Bay's second play from scrimmage, Favre hit Andre Rison for a 54-yard touchdown, and he later connected with Antonio Freeman on an 81-yarder. But it wasn't until Howard's return late in the third quarter that the Packers' lead was safe.

### SUPERDOME
**New Orleans, La.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 14 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 21 |
| Green Bay | 10 | 17 | 8 | 0 | 35 |

**1st Quarter**
GB Rison 54 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 3:32
GB Jacke 37 FG, 6:18
NE Byars 1 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 8:25
NE Coates 4 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 12:27

**2nd Quarter**
GB Freeman 81 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 0:56
GB Jacke 31 FG, 6:45
GB Favre 2 run (Jacke kick), 13:49

**3rd Quarter**
NE Martin 18 run (Vinatieri kick), 11:33
GB Howard 99 kickoff return (Chmura pass from Favre), 11:50

## SUPER BOWL XXXII
**JANUARY 25, 1998**

**Denver Broncos** 31
**Green Bay Packers** 24

**Attendance:** 68,912

**MVP:** Terrell Davis (RB), Broncos
30 carries, 157 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** Denver – d. Jacksonville, 42-17; d. Kansas City, 14-10; d. Pittsburgh, 24-21 (AFC Championship). Green Bay – d. Tampa Bay, 21-7; d. San Francisco, 23-10 (NFC Championship).

**Terrell Davis rushed for** 157 yards and a Super Bowl-record three touchdowns to lead the Broncos to their first NFL title and snap the NFC's streak of Super Bowl victories at 13. With the game knotted, 24-24, and just 3:27 left in regulation, the Broncos took over at the Packers 49. Davis rushed for two yards, and a 15-yard facemask penalty moved the ball to the Packers 32. Three plays later, Davis' 17-yard run brought the ball to the 1, and after a timeout, he waltzed into the end zone for the go-ahead score. Green Bay drove to the Broncos 31 in the waning seconds, but John Mobley knocked away a fourth-down pass to preserve the victory.

### QUALCOMM STADIUM
**San Diego, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green Bay | 7 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 24 |
| Denver | 7 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 31 |

**1st Quarter**
GB Freeman 22 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 4:02
DEN Davis 1 run (Elam kick), 9:21

**2nd Quarter**
DEN Elway 1 run (Elam kick), 0:05
DEN Elam 51 FG, 2:39
GB Chmura 6 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 14:48

**3rd Quarter**
GB Longwell 27 FG, 3:01
DEN Davis 1 run (Elam kick), 14:26

**4th Quarter**
GB Freeman 13 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 1:28
DEN Davis 1 run (Elam kick), 13:15

## SUPER BOWL XXXIII
**JANUARY 31, 1999**

**Denver Broncos** 34
**Atlanta Falcons** 19

**Attendance:** 74,803

**MVP:** John Elway (QB), Broncos
18 of 29 passing, 336 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Denver – d. Miami, 38-3; d. N.Y. Jets, 23-10 (AFC Championship). Atlanta – d. San Francisco, 20-18; d. Minnesota, 30-27 in OT (NFC Championship).

**Playing in his final game,** John Elway shined while leading the Broncos to their second straight Super Bowl victory, the first AFC team to achieve that feat since the Steelers 19 years earlier. Denver took the lead early, with Elway's 41-yard pass to Rod Smith setting up Howard Griffith's short TD run. Elway then fired an 80-yard scoring strike to Smith to put the Broncos ahead, 17-3. In the second half, Darrien Gordon dashed Atlanta's comeback hopes with interceptions on consecutive possessions that led to Denver touchdowns, the second of those a 3-yard Elway run making it 31-6.

### PRO PLAYER STADIUM
**Miami, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 7 | 10 | 0 | 17 | 34 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 19 |

**1st Quarter**
ATL Andersen 32 FG, 5:25
DEN Griffith 1 run (Elam kick), 11:05

**2nd Quarter**
DEN Elam 26 FG, 5:43
DEN R. Smith 80 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 10:06
ATL Andersen 28 FG, 12:35

**4th Quarter**
DEN Griffith 1 run (Elam kick), 0:04
DEN Elway 3 run (Elam kick), 3:40
ATL Dwight 94 kickoff return (Andersen kick), 3:59
DEN Elam 37 FG, 7:52
ATL Mathis 3 pass from Chandler (pass failed), 12:56

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## THE EXCITEMENT OF

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# SUPER BOWL XXXIV–XXXVI

Robert Schmidt/Getty Images

**Torry Holt (88) and Isaac Bruce (80)** each caught TD passes in the Rams' Super Bowl XXXIV win.

Doug Pensinger/Getty Images

**Brandon Stokley accounted** for the Ravens' first TD of Super Bowl XXXV with a 38-yard reception.

Amy Sancetta/AP Images

**Adam Vinatieri (4) finished off** the Patriots' Super Bowl XXXVI triumph with a 48-yard field goal.

## SUPER BOWL XXXIV
**JANUARY 30, 2000**

**St. Louis Rams** 23
**Tennessee Titans** 16

**Attendance:** 72,625

**MVP:** Kurt Warner (QB), Rams
24 of 45 passing, 414 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** St. Louis – d. Minnesota, 49-37; d. Tampa Bay, 11-6 (NFC Championship). Tennessee – d. Buffalo, 22-16; d. Indianapolis, 19-16; d. Jacksonville, 33-14 (AFC Championship).

**Mike Jones tackled** Tennessee's Kevin Dyson at the 1-yard line as time expired, preserving the Rams' first Super Bowl title. For coach Dick Vermeil, the win came 19 years after he brought the Eagles to the Super Bowl, marking the longest stretch between Super Bowl appearances by a coach. St. Louis reached the red zone on each of its first six possessions, but managed just three field goals and one touchdown. The Titans then rallied with two long TD drives and an Al Del Greco field goal to tie the game late in the fourth quarter. It was quickly untied on the next play from scrimmage, when Kurt Warner fired a 73-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce. Tennessee then drove deep into Rams territory, only to come up empty when Jones wrapped up Dyson shy of the goal line.

### GEORGIA DOME
### Atlanta, Ga.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 23 |
| Tennessee | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 16 |

**1st Quarter**
**STL** Wilkins 27 FG, 12:00

**2nd Quarter**
**STL** Wilkins 29 FG, 10:44
**STL** Wilkins 28 FG, 14:45

**3rd Quarter**
**STL** Holt 9 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick), 7:40
**TEN** George 1 run (pass failed), 14:46

**4th Quarter**
**TEN** George 2 run (Del Greco kick), 7:39
**TEN** Del Greco 43 FG, 12:45
**STL** Bruce 73 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick), 13:06

## SUPER BOWL XXXV
**JANUARY 28, 2001**

**Baltimore Ravens** 34
**New York Giants** 7

**Attendance:** 71,921

**MVP:** Ray Lewis (LB), Ravens
Star of a defense that allowed just 152 total yards

**How They Got There:** Baltimore – d. Denver, 21-3; d. Tennessee, 24-10; d. Oakland, 16-3 (AFC Championship). New York – d. Philadelphia, 20-10; d. Minnesota, 41-0 (NFC Championship).

**The Ravens' defense led** the way by permitting just 152 yards, forcing five turnovers, recording four sacks, and not allowing an offensive touchdown as the franchise posted its first Super Bowl victory. There were 21 points scored in a dizzying 36-second span of the third quarter, starting when Baltimore's Duane Starks returned an interception 49 yards for a TD and a 17-0 Ravens lead. The Giants' Ron Dixon brought back the ensuing kickoff 97 yards for a score, but Jermaine Lewis matched it with a kickoff-return TD of his own. The Giants managed just one first down on their final four possessions.

### RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
### Tampa, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 7 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 34 |
| New York Giants | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |

**1st Quarter**
**BAL** Stokley 38 pass from Dilfer (Stover kick), 8:10

**2nd Quarter**
**BAL** Stover 47 FG, 13:19

**3rd Quarter**
**BAL** Starks 49 interception return (Stover kick), 11:11
**NYG** Dixon 97 kickoff return (Daluiso kick), 11:29
**BAL** Je. Lewis 84 kickoff return (Stover kick), 11:47

**4th Quarter**
**BAL** Ja. Lewis 3 run (Stover kick), 6:15
**BAL** Stover 34 FG, 9:33

## SUPER BOWL XXXVI
**FEBRUARY 3, 2002**

**New England Patriots** 20
**St. Louis Rams** 17

**Attendance:** 72,922

**MVP:** Tom Brady (QB), Patriots
16 of 27 passing, 145 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** New England – d. Oakland, 16-13 in OT; d. Pittsburgh, 24-17 (AFC Championship). St. Louis – d. Green Bay, 45-17; d. Philadelphia, 29-24 (NFC Championship).

**Adam Vinatieri's** 48-yard field goal proved the difference as the Patriots prevailed in the first Super Bowl where the winning points were scored on the final play. Underdog New England had built a 17-3 lead, but the Rams tied things up with two fourth-quarter touchdowns – the second with just 1:30 to go – before Patriots QB Tom Brady positioned his team for the game-winning kick. He completed five passes on the drive, three of those to J.R. Redmond and another a 23-yarder to Troy Brown that brought the ball into St. Louis territory.

### SUPERDOME
### New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 17 |
| New England | 0 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 20 |

**1st Quarter**
**STL** FG Wilkins 50, 11:50

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Law 47 interception return (Vinatieri kick), 6:11
**NE** Patten 8 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 14:29

**3rd Quarter**
**NE** Vinatieri 37 FG, 13:42

**4th Quarter**
**STL** Warner 2 run (Wilkins kick), 5:29
**STL** Proehl 26 pass from Warner (Wilkins kick), 13:30
**NE** Vinatieri 48 FG, 15:00

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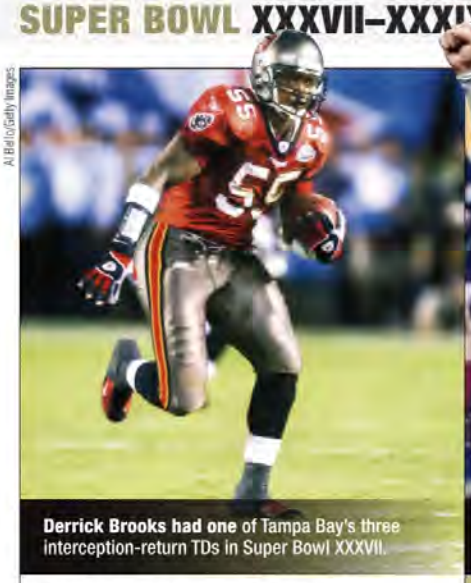
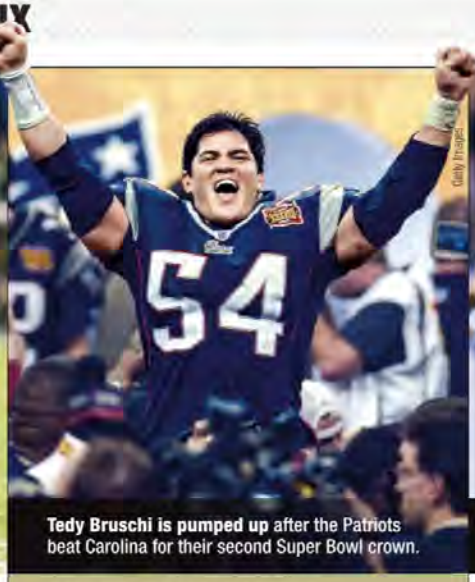


Al Bello/Getty Images

**Derrick Brooks had one** of Tampa Bay's three interception-return TDs in Super Bowl XXXVII.



Getty Images

**Tedy Bruschi is pumped up** after the Patriots beat Carolina for their second Super Bowl crown.

Andy Lyons/Getty Images

**Corey Dillon's TD run** snapped a fourth-quarter tie in New England's Super Bowl XXXIX victory.

## SUPER BOWL XXXVII
**JANUARY 26, 2003**

**Tampa Bay Buccaneers** 48
**Oakland Raiders** 21

**Attendance:** 67,603

**MVP:** Dexter Jackson (S), Buccaneers
2 interceptions

**How They Got There:** Tampa Bay – d. San Francisco, 31-6; d. Philadelphia, 27-10 (NFC Championship). Oakland – d. N.Y. Jets, 30-10; d. Tennessee, 41-24 (AFC Championship).

**Tampa Bay** intercepted five passes, three that it returned for TDs, on its way to the win. After an early field goal, Oakland managed just two first downs on its next nine possessions while the Buccaneers rolled to 34 straight points. Keenan McCardell ignited a decisive sequence, catching touchdown passes on back-to-back drives that put his team ahead, 27-3.

### QUALCOMM STADIUM
**San Diego, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oakland | 3 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 21 |
| Tampa Bay | 3 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 48 |

**1st Quarter**
**OAK** Janikowski 40 FG, 4:20
**TB** Gramatica 31 FG, 7:09

**2nd Quarter**
**TB** Gramatica 43 FG, 3:44
**TB** Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick), 8:36
**TB** McCardell 5 pass from B. Johnson (Gramatica kick), 14:30

**3rd Quarter**
**TB** McCardell 8 pass from B. Johnson (Gramatica kick), 9:30
**TB** D. Smith 44 interception return (Gramatica kick), 10:13
**OAK** Porter 39 pass from Gannon (pass failed), 12:46

**4th Quarter**
**OAK** E. Johnson 13 return of blocked punt (pass failed), 0:46
**OAK** J. Rice 48 pass from Gannon (pass failed), 8:54
**TB** Brooks 44 interception return (Gramatica kick), 13:42
**TB** D. Smith 50 interception return (Gramatica kick), 14:58

## SUPER BOWL XXXVIII
**FEBRUARY 1, 2004**

**New England Patriots** 32
**Carolina Panthers** 29

**Attendance:** 71,525

**MVP:** Tom Brady (QB), Patriots
32 of 48 passing, 354 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** New England – d. Tennessee, 17-14; d. Indianapolis, 24-14 (AFC Championship). Carolina – d. Dallas, 29-10; d. St. Louis, 29-23 in 2 OTs; d. Philadelphia, 14-3 (NFC Championship).

**Adam Vinatieri's** 41-yard field goal with four seconds to play lifted New England to its second championship in three years. While it took a Super Bowl-record 26 minutes, 55 seconds for the first points to be scored, the teams eventually combined for 868 total yards (481 by the Patriots). Carolina briefly moved in front on an 85-yard Muhsin Muhammad TD reception and later tied the game on Ricky Proehl's 12-yard scoring catch with 1:08 to play. But Tom Brady calmly drove the Patriots into field goal range, aided by Deion Branch's clutch 17-yard grab.

### RELIANT STADIUM
**Houston, Texas**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina | 0 | 10 | 0 | 19 | 29 |
| New England | 0 | 14 | 0 | 18 | 32 |

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Branch 5 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 11:55
**CAR** S. Smith 39 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), 13:53
**NE** Givens 5 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 14:42
**CAR** Kasay 50 FG, 15:00

**4th Quarter**
**NE** A. Smith 2 run (Vinatieri kick), 0:11
**CAR** Foster 33 run (pass failed), 2:21
**CAR** Muhammad 85 pass from Delhomme (pass failed), 8:07
**NE** Vrabel 1 pass from Brady (Faulk run), 12:09
**CAR** Proehl 12 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), 13:52
**NE** Vinatieri 41 FG, 14:56

## SUPER BOWL XXXIX
**FEBRUARY 6, 2005**

**New England Patriots** 24
**Philadelphia Eagles** 21

**Attendance:** 78,125

**MVP:** Deion Branch (WR), Patriots
11 receptions, 133 yards

**How They Got There:** New England – d. Indianapolis, 20-3; d. Pittsburgh, 41-27 (AFC Championship). Philadelphia – d. Minnesota, 27-14; d. Atlanta, 27-10 (NFC Championship).

**Behind a defense** that forced four turnovers – including two fourth-quarter interceptions – the Patriots joined the Cowboys as the only teams to win three Super Bowls in a span of four seasons. New England took the lead for good early in the fourth quarter on a drive sparked by Kevin Faulk, who caught screen passes of 13 and 14 yards and added a 12-yard run. Corey Dillon capped the possession with his 2-yard TD run, and after Adam Vinatieri's 22-yard field goal made it 24-14, Tedy Bruschi and Rodney Harrison stepped up with interceptions that preserved the outcome.

### ALLTEL STADIUM
**Jacksonville, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 0 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 24 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 21 |

**2nd Quarter**
**PHI** Smith 6 pass from McNabb (Akers kick) 5:05
**NE** Givens 4 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 13:50

**3rd Quarter**
**NE** Vrabel 2 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 3:56
**PHI** Westbrook 10 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 11:25

**4th Quarter**
**NE** Dillon 2 run (Vinatieri kick), 1:16
**NE** Vinatieri 22 FG, 6:20
**PHI** G. Lewis 30 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 13:12

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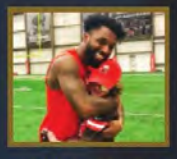

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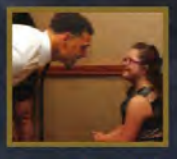
CLEVELAND BROWNS

**TRAVIS FREDERICK**
DALLAS COWBOYS



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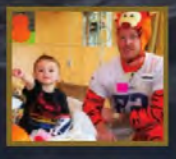

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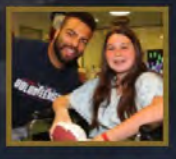
MINNESOTA VIKINGS



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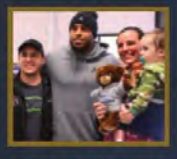

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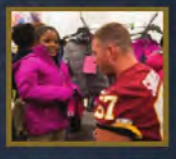

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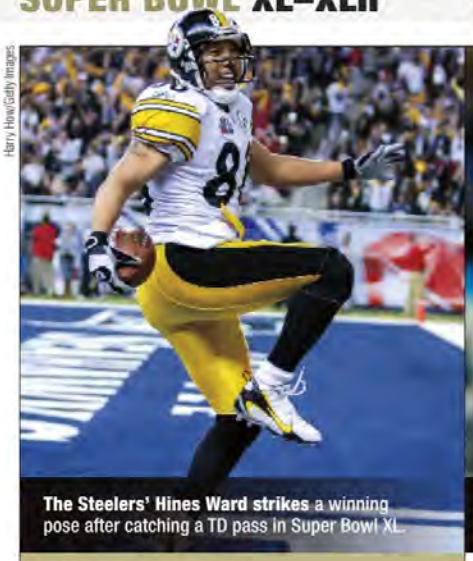


Harry How/Getty Images

**The Steelers' Hines Ward strikes** a winning pose after catching a TD pass in Super Bowl XL.

Donald Miralle/Getty Images

**Peyton Manning and the Colts** cleared the final hurdle by beating the Bears in Super Bowl XLI.

Ross D. Franklin/AP Images

**The Giants' Eli Manning engineered** perhaps the biggest Super Bowl upset ever in SB XLII.

## SUPER BOWL XL
**FEBRUARY 5, 2006**

**Pittsburgh Steelers** 21
**Seattle Seahawks** 10

**Attendance:** 68,206

**MVP:** Hines Ward (WR), Steelers
5 receptions, 123 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. Cincinnati, 31-17; d. Indianapolis, 21-18; d. Denver, 34-17 (AFC Championship). Seattle – d. Washington, 20-10; d. Carolina, 34-14 (NFC Championship).

**The Steelers** finally earned their "one for the thumb," becoming the first AFC team to win five Super Bowls. Holding a tenuous 14-10 fourth-quarter lead, the game's key sequence came when cornerback Ike Taylor picked off a pass to stop a Seahawks threat. Pittsburgh quickly cashed in when Antwaan Randle El, a quarterback in college, took a handoff, sprinted right, then stopped and fired a 43-yard strike to Hines Ward for the first Super Bowl TD pass thrown by a wide receiver. In the third quarter, the Steelers' Willie Parker burst free for a Super Bowl-record 75-yard touchdown run.

### FORD FIELD
### Detroit, Mich.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 21 |

**1st Quarter**
**SEA** Brown 47 FG, 14:38

**2nd Quarter**
**PIT** Roethlisberger 1 run (Reed kick), 13:05

**3rd Quarter**
**PIT** Parker 75 run (Reed kick), 0:22
**SEA** Stevens 16 pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick), 8:15

**4th Quarter**
**PIT** Ward 43 pass from Randle El (Reed kick), 6:04

## SUPER BOWL XLI
**FEBRUARY 4, 2007**

**Indianapolis Colts** 29
**Chicago Bears** 17

**Attendance:** 74,512

**MVP:** Peyton Manning (QB), Colts
25 of 38 passing, 247 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Indianapolis – d. Kansas City, 23-8; d. Baltimore, 15-6; d. New England, 38-34 (AFC Championship). Chicago – d. Seattle, 27-24 in OT; d. New Orleans, 39-14 (NFC Championship).

**A wet and wild night** of Super Bowl firsts brought Tony Dungy, Peyton Manning, and the Colts to the top of the NFL. Dungy became the first African-American head coach to win the Super Bowl while directing the franchise to its first crown since relocating to Indianapolis in 1984. It was also the first Super Bowl title for Manning, whose career saw him set league marks for completions, passing yards, and passing TDs. The game also marked the first time the opening kickoff was run back for a touchdown, accomplished when the Bears' Devin Hester sped 92 yards to give his team the early lead.

### DOLPHIN STADIUM
### Miami, Fla.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 6 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 29 |
| Chicago | 14 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 17 |

**1st Quarter**
**CHI** Hester 92 kickoff return (Gould kick), 0:14
**IND** Wayne 53 pass from Manning (kick failed), 8:10
**CHI** Muhammad 4 pass from Grossman (Gould kick), 10:26

**2nd Quarter**
**IND** Vinatieri 29 FG, 3:43
**IND** Rhodes 1 run (Vinatieri kick), 8:51

**3rd Quarter**
**IND** Vinatieri 24 FG, 7:34
**IND** Vinatieri 20 FG, 11:44
**CHI** Gould 44 FG, 13:46

**4th Quarter**
**IND** Hayden 56 interception return (Vinatieri kick), 3:16

## SUPER BOWL XLII
**FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

**New York Giants** 17
**New England Patriots** 14

**Attendance:** 71,101

**MVP:** Eli Manning (QB), Giants
19 of 34 passing, 255 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** New York – d. Tampa Bay, 24-14; d. Dallas, 21-17; d. Green Bay, 23-20 in OT (NFC Championship). New England – d. Jacksonville, 31-20; d. San Diego Chargers, 21-12 (AFC Championship).

**The Giants became** the first NFC wild card team to win the Super Bowl, an achievement made possible by a relentless defense and David Tyree's brilliant 32-yard catch that set up the go-ahead touchdown. Plaxico Burress capped the winning drive with his 13-yard TD grab with 35 seconds to play, shocking a Patriots squad that entered the game 18-0 and had taken the lead just minutes earlier on Randy Moss' 6-yard touchdown reception. Michael Strahan (3 tackles, 1 sack, 1 pass defensed), playing his final game, keyed a defense that produced five sacks, while the Giants' ball-control approach on offense included an opening drive that lasted a Super Bowl-record 9 minutes, 59 seconds.

### UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM
### Glendale, Ariz.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York Giants | 3 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 17 |
| New England | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 14 |

**1st Quarter**
**NYG** Tynes 32 FG, 9:59

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Maroney 1 run (Gostkowski kick), 0:03

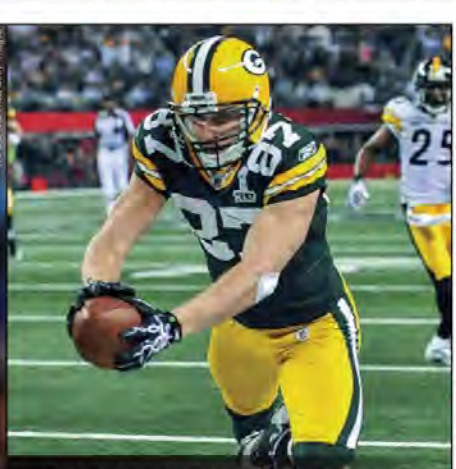
**4th Quarter**
**NYG** Tyree 5 pass from Manning (Tynes kick), 3:55
**NE** Moss 6 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 12:18
**NYG** Burress 13 pass from Manning (Tynes kick), 14:25

Al Bello/Getty Images

**The Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger** stood tall with a late TD pass to clip the Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII.

Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

**Tracy Porter heads for paydirt** with an interception return that secured the Saints' Super Bowl XLIV win.



Jeff Vasquez/AP Images

**Jordy Nelson reaches for the end zone** and the Packers' first TD in their Super Bowl XLV victory.

## SUPER BOWL XLIII
**FEBRUARY 1, 2009**

**Pittsburgh Steelers** 27
**Arizona Cardinals** 23

**Attendance:** 70,774

**MVP:** Santonio Holmes (WR), Steelers
9 receptions, 131 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** Pittsburgh – d. San Diego Chargers, 35-24; d. Baltimore, 23-14 (AFC Championship). Arizona – d. Atlanta, 30-24; d. Carolina, 33-13; d. Philadelphia, 32-25 (NFC Championship).

**In a game** with a long list of clutch plays, the Steelers saved the biggest for last. Arizona nearly pulled off what would have been an historic comeback, scoring 16 points in a frenzied fourth quarter and taking the lead on Larry Fitzgerald's 64-yard touchdown catch with 2:37 to play. Pittsburgh answered with a 78-yard drive, winning the game on Ben Roethlisberger's 6-yard scoring pass to Santonio Holmes. The game also saw the Steelers' James Harrison return an interception 100 yards for a TD on the final play before halftime.

### RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
**Tampa, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 27 |
| Arizona | 0 | 7 | 0 | 16 | 23 |

**1st Quarter**
PIT Reed 18 FG, 5:15

**2nd Quarter**
PIT Russell 1 run (Reed kick), 0:59
ARI Patrick 1 pass from Warner (Rackers kick), 6:26
PIT Harrison 100 interception return (Reed kick), 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
PIT Reed 21 FG, 12:49

**4th Quarter**
ARI Fitzgerald 1 pass from Warner (Rackers kick), 7:27
ARI Safety, Holding penalty enforced in the end zone, 12:02
ARI Fitzgerald 64 pass from Warner (Rackers kick), 12:23
PIT Holmes 6 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick), 14:25

## SUPER BOWL XLIV
**FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

**New Orleans Saints** 31
**Indianapolis Colts** 17

**Attendance:** 74,059

**MVP:** Drew Brees (QB), Saints
32 of 39 passing, 288 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** New Orleans – d. Arizona, 45-14; d. Minnesota, 31-28 in OT (NFC Championship). Indianapolis – d. Baltimore, 20-3; d. N.Y. Jets, 30-17 (AFC Championship).

**Proving it's how you finish** that's important, the Saints became the first team to take a three-game losing streak into the playoffs and then win the Super Bowl. They did it with a daring play call to start the second half – an onside kick that was recovered by Chris Reis and set up a six-play drive that Drew Brees finished with a 16-yard TD pass to Pierre Thomas. Jeremy Shockey's fourth-quarter scoring grab moved New Orleans in front to stay, and Tracy Porter put the game away with his 74-yard interception-return touchdown with 3:12 remaining.

### SUN LIFE STADIUM
**Miami, Fla.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Orleans | 0 | 6 | 10 | 15 | 31 |
| Indianapolis | 10 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 17 |

**1st Quarter**
IND Stover 38 FG, 7:31
IND Garcon 19 pass from Manning (Stover kick), 14:24

**2nd Quarter**
NO Hartley 46 FG, 5:26
NO Hartley 44 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
NO Thomas 19 pass from Brees (Hartley kick), 3:19
IND Addai 4 run (Stover kick), 8:45
NO FG Hartley 47, 12:59

**4th Quarter**
NO Shockey 2 pass from Brees (Moore pass from Brees), 9:18
NO Porter 74 interception return (Hartley kick), 11:48

## SUPER BOWL XLV
**FEBRUARY 6, 2011**

**Green Bay Packers** 31
**Pittsburgh Steelers** 25

**Attendance:** 91,060

**MVP:** Aaron Rodgers (QB), Packers
24 of 39 passing, 304 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** Green Bay – d. Philadelphia, 21-16; d. Atlanta, 48-21; d. Chicago, 21-14 (NFC Championship). Pittsburgh – d. Baltimore, 31-24; d. N.Y. Jets, 24-19 (AFC Championship).

**Aaron Rodgers threw** three TD passes and Nick Collins returned an interception for another score, sparking the Packers to their fourth Super Bowl title. The Steelers had trailed, 21-3, but tallied two TDs to get close and were on the move again early in the fourth quarter. That's when Green Bay linebacker Clay Matthews stripped the ball from running back Rashard Mendenhall at the Packers 33 and teammate Desmond Bishop recovered. Rodgers then marched Green Bay to a quick touchdown that extended his team's lead to 28-17.

### COWBOYS STADIUM
**Arlington, Texas**

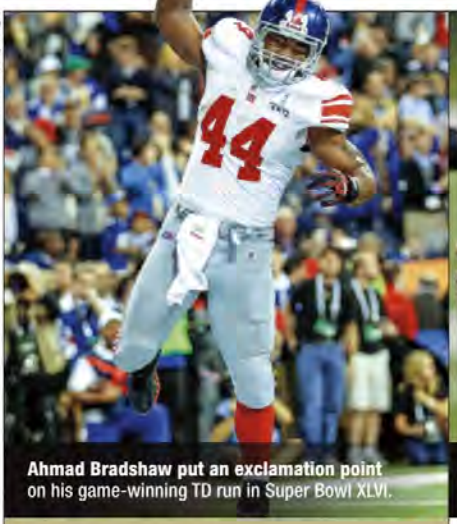
| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 25 |
| Green Bay | 14 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 31 |

**1st Quarter**
GB Nelson 29 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 11:16
GB Collins 37 interception return (Crosby kick), 11:40

**2nd Quarter**
PIT Suisham 33 FG, 3:52
GB Jennings 21 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 12:36
PIT Ward 8 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisham kick), 14:21

**3rd Quarter**
PIT Mendenhall 8 run (Suisham kick), 4:41

**4th Quarter**
GB Jennings 8 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 3:03
PIT Wallace 25 pass from Roethlisberger (Randle El run), 7:26
GB Crosby 23 FG, 12:53



Rob Carr/Getty Images

**Ahmad Bradshaw put an exclamation point** on his game-winning TD run in Super Bowl XLVI.

Elise Amendola/AP Images

**Joe Flacco completed a magical postseason** by directing the Ravens' Super Bowl XLVII victory.

Christian Petersen/Getty Images

**Seahawks coach Pete Carroll** had reason to smile during his team's Super Bowl XLVIII performance.

## SUPER BOWL XLVI
**FEBRUARY 5, 2012**

**New York Giants** 21
**New England Patriots** 17

**Attendance:** 68,658

**MVP:** Eli Manning (QB), Giants
30 of 40 passing, 296 yards, 1 TD

**How They Got There:** New York – d. Atlanta, 24-2; d. Green Bay, 37-20; d. San Francisco, 20-17 in OT (NFC Championship). New England – d. Denver, 45-10; d. Baltimore, 23-20 (AFC Championship).

**In the first Super Bowl** to feature two starting quarterbacks who previously won the big game's MVP award, Eli Manning and the Giants edged Tom Brady and the Patriots, scoring a late TD for the victory. Manning set a record by opening a Super Bowl with nine consecutive completions; Brady later put together a run of 16 completions in a row, breaking another Super Bowl mark. But with time counting down, Manning directed a nine-play, 88-yard drive that moved New York ahead to stay, capped when Ahmad Bradshaw ran for the winning touchdown with just under a minute to play.

### LUCAS OIL STADIUM
### Indianapolis, Ind.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York Giants | 9 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 21 |
| New England | 0 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 17 |

**1st Quarter**
**NYG** Safety, Intentional grounding penalty enforced in end zone, 6:08
**NYG** Cruz 2 pass from Manning (Tynes kick), 11:36

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Gostkowski 29 FG, 1:12
**NE** Woodhead 4 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 14:52

**3rd Quarter**
**NE** Hernandez 12 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 3:40
**NYG** Tynes 38 FG, 8:17
**NYG** Tynes 33 FG, 14:25

**4th Quarter**
**NYG** Bradshaw 6 run (run failed), 14:03

## SUPER BOWL XLVII
**FEBRUARY 3, 2013**

**Baltimore Ravens** 34
**San Francisco 49ers** 31

**Attendance:** 71,024

**MVP:** Joe Flacco (QB), Ravens
22 of 33 passing, 287 yards, 3 TDs

**How They Got There:** Baltimore – d. Indianapolis, 24-9; d. Denver, 38-35 in 2 OTs; d. New England, 28-13 (AFC Championship). San Francisco – d. Green Bay, 45-31; d. Atlanta, 28-24 (NFC Championship).

**The Ravens built** a big lead, then held on to hand the 49ers their first Super Bowl loss in six appearances. Joe Flacco threw three first-half touchdowns – capping a spectacular 11-TD, zero-interception postseason – and Jacoby Jones opened the second half with a Super Bowl-record 108-yard kickoff-return touchdown that put Baltimore ahead, 28-6. The 49ers rallied late, but were stopped on downs at the Ravens 5-yard line with under two minutes to play.

### MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
### New Orleans, La.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 7 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 34 |
| San Francisco | 3 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 31 |

**1st Quarter**
**BAL** Boldin 13 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 4:24
**SF** Akers 36 FG, 11:02

**2nd Quarter**
**BAL** Pitta 1 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 7:50
**BAL** Jones 56 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 13:15
**SF** Akers 27 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
**BAL** Jones 108 kickoff return (Tucker kick), 0:11
**SF** Crabtree 31 pass from Kaepernick (Akers kick), 7:40
**SF** Gore 6 run (Akers kick), 10:01
**SF** Akers 34 FG, 11:50

**4th Quarter**
**BAL** Tucker 19 FG, 2:06
**SF** Kaepernick 15 run (pass failed), 5:03
**BAL** Tucker 38 FG, 10:41
**SF** Safety, Koch forced out of end zone, 14:56

## SUPER BOWL XLVIII
**FEBRUARY 2, 2014**

**Seattle Seahawks** 43
**Denver Broncos** 8

**Attendance:** 82,529

**MVP:** Malcolm Smith (LB), Seahawks
9 tackles, 69-yard interception return for TD

**How They Got There:** Seattle – d. New Orleans, 23-15; d. San Francisco, 23-17 (NFC Championship). Denver – d. San Diego Chargers, 24-17; d. New England, 26-16 (AFC Championship).

**In what was expected** to be the first cold-weather Super Bowl – but instead kicked off in pleasant 49-degree conditions at MetLife Stadium – Seattle cruised past the Broncos. The game featured the quickest points to open a Super Bowl; the Seahawks scored on a safety just 12 seconds into the contest. More big plays followed. Seattle LB Malcolm Smith, the first defender in 11 years to be named the game's MVP, broke things open by bringing back a second-quarter interception 69 yards for a touchdown, and Percy Harvin returned the second half kickoff 87 yards for another Seattle TD, making the score 29-0.

### METLIFE STADIUM
### East Rutherford, N.J.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 8 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 43 |
| Denver | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |

**1st Quarter**
**SEA** Safety, Moreno tackled in end zone, 0:12
**SEA** Hauschka 31 FG, 4:39
**SEA** Hauschka 33 FG, 12:44

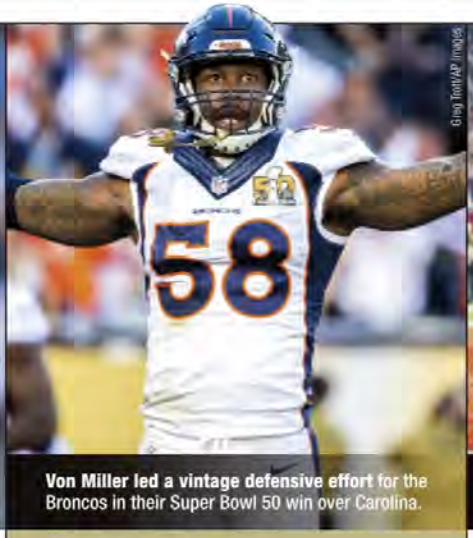
**2nd Quarter**
**SEA** Lynch 1 run (Hauschka kick), 3:00
**SEA** Smith 69 interception return (Hauschka kick), 11:39

**3rd Quarter**
**SEA** Harvin 87 kickoff return (Hauschka kick), 0:12
**SEA** Kearse 23 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 12:02
**DEN** D. Thomas 14 pass from Manning (Welker pass from Manning), 15:00

**4th Quarter**
**SEA** Baldwin 10 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 3:15

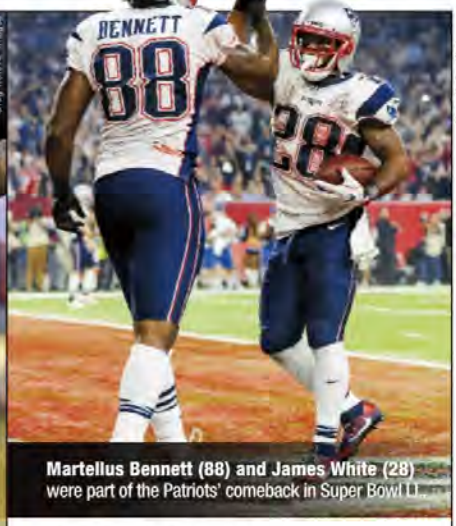
Chris Graythen/Getty Images

**Tom Brady rallied the Patriots** with a pair of fourth-quarter TD throws in Super Bowl XLIX.



Greg Trott/AP Images

**Von Miller led a vintage defensive effort** for the Broncos in their Super Bowl 50 win over Carolina.



Kevin C. Cox/AP Images

**Martellus Bennett (88) and James White (28)** were part of the Patriots' comeback in Super Bowl LI.

## SUPER BOWL XLIX
**FEBRUARY 1, 2015**

**New England Patriots** 28
**Seattle Seahawks** 24

**Attendance:** 70,288

**MVP:** Tom Brady (QB), Patriots
37 of 50 passing, 328 yards, 4 TDs

**How They Got There:** New England – d. Baltimore, 35-31; d. Indianapolis, 45-7 (AFC Championship). Seattle – d. Carolina, 31-17; d. Green Bay, 28-22 in OT (NFC Championship).

**Tom Brady threw** four touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score to Julian Edelman with 2:02 remaining, and Malcolm Butler intercepted a pass at the goal line with 20 seconds left to preserve the Patriots' fourth Super Bowl win. Brady's third TD throw was his 12th in the Super Bowl, breaking Joe Montana's record. Still, Seattle nearly pulled off an improbable victory, moving deep into New England territory on Jermaine Kearse's acrobatic 33-yard catch, before Butler came up big two plays later, stepping in front of a pass for the game-saving pickoff.

### UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM
**Glendale, Ariz.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 28 |
| Seattle | 0 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 24 |

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** LaFell 11 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 5:13
**SEA** Lynch 3 run (Hauschka kick), 12:44
**NE** Gronkowski 22 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 14:29
**SEA** Matthews 11 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 14:58

**3rd Quarter**
**SEA** Hauschka 27 FG, 3:51
**SEA** Baldwin 3 pass from Wilson (Hauschka kick), 10:06

**4th Quarter**
**NE** Amendola 4 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 7:05
**NE** Edelman 3 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 12:58

## SUPER BOWL 50
**FEBRUARY 7, 2016**

**Denver Broncos** 24
**Carolina Panthers** 10

**Attendance:** 71,088

**MVP:** Von Miller (LB), Broncos
6 tackles, 2.5 sacks, 2 forced fumbles

**How They Got There:** Denver – d. Pittsburgh, 20-13; d. New England, 20-18 (AFC Championship). Carolina – d. Seattle, 31-24; d. Arizona, 49-15 (NFC Championship).

**Defense carried the day** for the Broncos, who won their third Super Bowl title by flustering the Panthers' offense. Denver recorded seven sacks and linebacker Von Miller forced a pair of fumbles that led to the team's two TDs. The first was scooped up by teammate Malik Jackson in the end zone for a 10-0 lead; the second led to C.J. Anderson's short scoring run. T.J. Ward did his part, too, with seven tackles and one pass defensed. The victory was the 200th in Peyton Manning's career and made him the first starting QB to win Super Bowls with two different franchises, while Gary Kubiak became the first person to win a Super Bowl as a player and a head coach for the same team.

### LEVI'S STADIUM
**San Francisco, Calif.**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| Denver | 10 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 24 |

**1st Quarter**
**DEN** McManus 34 FG, 4:17
**DEN** Jackson 0 fumble return (McManus kick), 8:33

**2nd Quarter**
**CAR** Stewart 1 run (Gano kick), 3:35
**DEN** McManus 33 FG, 8:02

**3rd Quarter**
**DEN** McManus 30 FG, 6:42

**4th Quarter**
**CAR** Gano 39 FG, 4:39
**DEN** Anderson 2 run (Manning pass to Fowler), 11:52

## SUPER BOWL LI
**FEBRUARY 5, 2017**

**New England Patriots** 34 (OT)
**Atlanta Falcons** 28

**Attendance:** 70,807

**MVP:** Tom Brady (QB), Patriots
43 of 62 passing, 466 yards, 2 TDs

**How They Got There:** New England – d. Houston, 34-16; d. Pittsburgh, 36-17 (AFC Championship). Atlanta – d. Seattle, 36-20; d. Green Bay, 44-21 (NFC Championship).

**New England staged** the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history, rallying from a 25-point deficit late in the third quarter to prevail in overtime for the franchise's fifth championship. It would have been hard to imagine such an outcome after Matt Ryan's 6-yard touchdown pass to Tevin Coleman gave Atlanta a 28-3 lead, but Patriots QB Tom Brady – who became the first four-time Super Bowl MVP – made it happen. He threw TD passes to James White and Danny Amendola, Stephen Gostkowski kicked a 33-yard field goal, and a White touchdown run and a two-point conversion then tied it to cap a frantic final 17 minutes of regulation. White won the game with a 2-yard TD run on the first possession of overtime.

### NRG STADIUM
**Houston, Texas**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 0 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 6 | 34 |
| Atlanta | 0 | 21 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 28 |

**2nd Quarter**
**ATL** Freeman 5 run (Bryant kick), 2:45
**ATL** Hooper 19 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 6:12
**ATL** Alford 82 interception return (Bryant kick), 12:39
**NE** Gostkowski 41 FG, 14:58

**3rd Quarter**
**ATL** Coleman 6 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 6:29
**NE** White 5 pass from Brady (kick failed), 12:54

**4th Quarter**
**NE** Gostkowski 33 FG, 5:16
**NE** Amendola 6 pass from Brady (White run), 9:04
**NE** White 1 run (Brady pass to Amendola), 14:03

**Overtime**
**NE** White 2 run, 3:58

Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

**Eagles QB Nick Foles shares the joy** of a Super Bowl championship with his daughter Lily.

David J. Phillip/AP Images

**Julian Edelman's big receiving day in the Patriots' Super Bowl LIII win** earned him MVP honors. He caught a game-high 10 passes and his 141 receiving yards accounted for more than half of New England's total of 262.

## SUPER BOWL LII
**FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

**Philadelphia Eagles** 41
**New England Patriots** 33

**Attendance:** 67,612

**MVP:** Nick Foles (QB), Eagles
28 of 43 passing, 373 yards, 3 TDs; 1 TD reception

**How They Got There:** Philadelphia – d. Atlanta, 15-10; d. Minnesota, 38-7 (NFC Championship). New England – d. Tennessee, 35-14; d. Jacksonville, 24-20 (AFC Championship).

**Zach Ertz's TD catch** with 2:21 remaining put the Eagles ahead, but it took a big defensive play by Brandon Graham and Derek Barnett to preserve the victory. Graham strip-sacked QB Tom Brady on the Patriots' next possession and Barnett recovered the loose ball. The game featured 1,151 total yards, the most ever in an NFL game, and Brady threw for a Super Bowl-record 505 yards. MVP Nick Foles became the first player to both throw and catch a TD pass in the Super Bowl.

### U.S. BANK STADIUM
### Minneapolis, Minn.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Philadelphia** | 9 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 41 |
| **New England** | 3 | 9 | 14 | 7 | 33 |

**1st Quarter**
**PHI** Elliott 25 FG, 7:05
**NE** Gostkowski 26 FG, 10:43
**PHI** Jeffery 34 pass from Foles (kick failed), 12:26

**2nd Quarter**
**PHI** Blount 21 run (pass failed), 6:12
**NE** Gostkowski 45 FG, 7:36
**NE** White 26 run (kick failed), 12:56
**PHI** Foles 1 pass from Burton (Elliott kick), 14:26

**3rd Quarter**
**NE** Gronkowski 5 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 2:45
**PHI** Clement 22 pass from Foles (Elliott kick), 7:42
**NE** Hogan 26 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 11:37

**4th Quarter**
**PHI** Elliott 42 FG, 0:51
**NE** Gronkowski 4 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 5:36
**PHI** Ertz 11 pass from Foles (pass failed), 12:39
**PHI** Elliott 46 FG, 13:55

## SUPER BOWL LIII
**FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

**New England Patriots** 13
**Los Angeles Rams** 3

**Attendance:** 70,081

**MVP:** Julian Edelman (WR), Patriots: 10 receptions, 141 yards

**How They Got There:** New England – d. L.A. Chargers, 41-28; d. Kansas City, 37-31 in OT (AFC Championship). Los Angeles – d. Dallas, 30-22; d. New Orleans, 26-23 in OT (NFC Championship).

**On the heels of the highest-scoring** season in NFL history, the Patriots and the Rams tangled in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever seen. New England prevailed to capture its sixth Super Bowl crown – all since the 2001 season – to tie the Steelers for the all-time record. Sony Michel accounted for the game's lone touchdown, a two-yard run midway through the fourth quarter that snapped a 3-3 tie and came one play after QB Tom Brady lofted a perfect pass to Rob Gronkowski for a 29-yard gain. Stephen Gostkowski then added a 41-yard field goal with 1:12 remaining to provide New England with a late cushion. In between those two scores, the Rams marched to the Patriots 27-yard line, but their threat ended when Jared Goff's pass deep down the right side was picked off by Stephon Gilmore.

### MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM
### Atlanta, Ga.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **New England** | 0 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 13 |
| **Los Angeles Rams** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Gostkowski 42 FG, 3:31

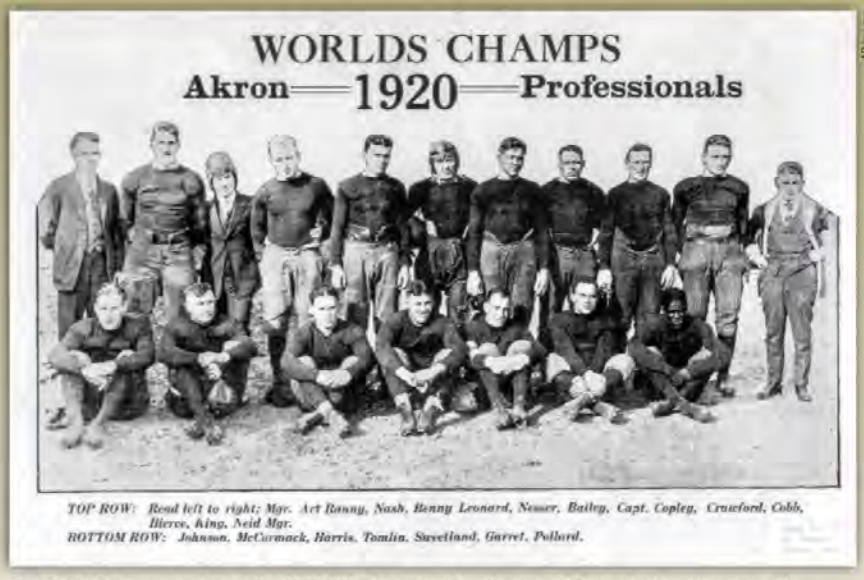
**3rd Quarter**
**LAR** Zuerlein 53 FG, 12:39

**4th Quarter**
**NE** Michel 2 run (Gostkowski kick), 8:00
**NE** Gostkowski 41 FG, 13:48

**From 1920-1931, the NFL did not have postseason play, but a first-place tie in 1932 forced a "playoff" and its success led the league to adopt a championship game format a year later. The AFL began play in 1960, and from 1966-1969 (before the merger), the two leagues held separate title games prior to the Super Bowl.**

## NFL Champions

**1920**..... Akron Pros
**1921**..... Chicago Staleys
**1922**..... Canton Bulldogs
**1923**..... Canton Bulldogs
**1924**..... Cleveland Bulldogs
**1925**..... Chicago Cardinals
**1926**..... Frankford Yellow Jackets
**1927**..... New York Giants
**1928**..... Providence Steam Roller
**1929**..... Green Bay Packers
**1930**..... Green Bay Packers
**1931**..... Green Bay Packers


WORLDS CHAMPS
Akron—1920—Professionals
TOP ROW: Read left to right; Mgr. Art Ranny, Nash, Benny Leonard, Nesser, Bailey, Capt. Copley, Crawford, Cobb, Pierce, King, Neid Mgr.
BOTTOM ROW: Johnson, McCormack, Harris, Tomlin, Sweetland, Garret, Pollard.
AP Images

**The Akron Pros were awarded the 1920 NFL championship** after going 8-0-3 in the league's inaugural season. Although official standings weren't kept, the Pros were voted the title at a league meeting in April 1921.

**1932**..... @ Chicago Bears 9, Portsmouth Spartans 0
**1933**..... @ Chicago Bears 23, New York Giants 21
**1934**..... @ New York Giants 30, Chicago Bears 13
**1935**..... @ Detroit Lions 26, New York Giants 7
**1936***..... Green Bay Packers 21, Boston Braves 6
**1937**..... Washington Redskins 28, @ Chicago Bears 21
**1938**..... @ New York Giants 23, Green Bay Packers 17
**1939**..... @ Green Bay Packers 27, New York Giants 0
**1940**..... Chicago Bears 73, @ Washington Redskins 0
**1941**..... @ Chicago Bears 37, New York Giants 9
**1942**..... @ Washington Redskins 14, Chicago Bears 6
**1943**..... @ Chicago Bears 41, Washington Redskins 21
**1944**..... Green Bay Packers 14, @ New York Giants 7
**1945**..... @ Cleveland Rams 15, Washington Redskins 14
**1946**..... Chicago Bears 24, @ New York Giants 14
**1947**..... @ Chicago Cardinals 28, Philadelphia Eagles 21
**1948**..... @ Philadelphia Eagles 7, Chicago Cardinals 0
**1949**..... Philadelphia Eagles 14, @ Los Angeles Rams 0
**1950**..... @ Cleveland Browns 30, Los Angeles Rams 28
**1951**..... @ Los Angeles Rams 24, Cleveland Browns 17
**1952**..... Detroit Lions 17, @ Cleveland Browns 7
**1953**..... @ Detroit Lions 17, Cleveland Browns 16
**1954**..... @ Cleveland Browns 56, Detroit Lions 10
**1955**..... Cleveland Browns 38, @ Los Angeles Rams 14
**1956**..... @ New York Giants 47, Chicago Bears 7
**1957**..... @ Detroit Lions 59, Cleveland Browns 14
**1958**..... Baltimore Colts 23, @ New York Giants 17 (OT)
**1959**..... @ Baltimore Colts 31, New York Giants 16
**1960**..... @ Philadelphia Eagles 17, Green Bay Packers 13
**1961**..... @ Green Bay Packers 37, New York Giants 0
**1962**..... Green Bay Packers 16, @ New York Giants 7
**1963**..... @ Chicago Bears 14, New York Giants 10
**1964**..... @ Cleveland Browns 27, Baltimore Colts 0
**1965**..... @ Green Bay Packers 23, Cleveland Browns 12
**1966**..... Green Bay Packers 34, @ Dallas Cowboys 27
**1967**..... @ Green Bay Packers 21, Dallas Cowboys 17
**1968**..... Baltimore Colts 34, @ Cleveland Browns 0
**1969**..... @ Minnesota Vikings 27, Cleveland Browns 7

## AFL Champions

**1960**..... @ Houston Oilers 24, Los Angeles Chargers 16
**1961**..... Houston Oilers 10, @ San Diego Chargers 3
**1962**..... Dallas Texans 20, @ Houston Oilers 17 (OT)
**1963**..... @ San Diego Chargers 51, Boston Patriots 10
**1964**..... @ Buffalo Bills 20, San Diego Chargers 7
**1965**..... Buffalo Bills 23, @ San Diego Chargers 0
**1966**..... Kansas City Chiefs 31, @ Buffalo Bills 7
**1967**..... @ Oakland Raiders 40, Houston Oilers 7
**1968**..... @ New York Jets 27, Oakland Raiders 23
**1969**..... Kansas City Chiefs 17, @ Oakland Raiders 7

*Held at the Polo Grounds (New York, N.Y.)

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System Configurations: AMD Ryzen™ 7 2700U Processor: HP 83C6, AMD Ryzen™ 7 2700U Processor with Radeon™ Vega 10 Graphics, 8GB Dual Channel (2x4GB) DDR4-2400 RAM, Samsung 850 PRO 512GB SATA SSD, Windows 10 Pro RS2, Graphics driver 22.19.655.0, 12-Sep-2017AMD Ryzen™ 5 2500U Processor: HP 83C6, AMD Ryzen™ 5 2500U Processor with Radeon™ Vega 8 Graphics, 8GB Dual Channel (2x4GB) DDR4-2400 RAM, Samsung 850 PRO 512GB SATA SSD, Windows 10 Pro RS2, Graphics driver 22.19.655.0, 12-Sep-2017i7-8550U: KBL Woody_KL, i7-8550U with Intel UHD Graphics 620, 8GB Dual Channel (2x4GB) DDR4-2400 RAM, MTFDDAV256TBN - M.2 Sata, Windows 10 Pro RS2, Graphics driver 22.20.16.4771, 12-Aug-2017

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**NFL PLAY 60 IS THE LEAGUE'S NATIONAL YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS** campaign to encourage kids to get active for at least 60 minutes a day. Since PLAY 60 launched in 2007, the NFL has committed more than $352 million to youth health and fitness through PLAY 60 programming, grants, and media time for public service announcements. Thousands of NFL players have served as PLAY 60 Ambassadors, dedicating their time to getting youth in their communities more active through football clinics, school assemblies, PSAs, and other outreach activities.

**Fuel Up to Play 60** is a leading in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by the NFL and the National Dairy Council (NDC), which was founded by America's dairy farmers, in collaboration with the USDA. This year, Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP 60) is celebrating 10 amazing years of empowering kids to eat healthier and get more physical activity! As a result of the program, more than 18 million students are getting more physically active during the school day and more than 14 million are making better food choices.

For the sixth consecutive season, the NFL, through Fuel Up to Play 60, is providing a $10,000 Hometown Grant in each of the NFL's 32 markets to help local school districts and individual schools improve their nutrition and physical activity initiatives.

Additionally, 4.3 million students in 4,700 schools nationwide have the opportunity to get active before, during, and after school through the NFL FLAG-In-Schools Program supported by the NFL Foundation and Fuel Up to Play 60. Fuel Up to Play 60 en español, an evolution of the national flagship program, is in its fifth year and encourages Spanish-speaking communities nationwide to live healthier lifestyles through good nutrition and physical activity.

**American Heart Association** is an NFL PLAY 60 partner engaging more than 4.5 million students in PLAY 60 physical activity programming. The NFL and American Heart Association, together with Discovery Education, have collaborated to bring physically active lifestyles to schools and homes across the country through virtual field trips. Available free of charge to classrooms nationwide, the NFL PLAY 60 virtual experience includes a virtual viewing party guide and a classroom activity designed to get the entire classroom up and moving.

To view these digital lesson plans, visit **aha-nflplay60.discovery education.com**. Additionally, the NFL and American Heart Association have enhanced the NFL PLAY 60 app, which inspires young fans to get moving through fun, interactive games. Download the app at **nfl.com/play60**.

### NFL PLAY 60 ALL-ABILITY

It's important that all kids have the opportunity and access to be physically active each day. The NFL partners with organizations to create these opportunities to PLAY 60.

The NFL and Special Olympics are committed to building inclusive communities and providing opportunities for athletes of all abilities to participate in sports through the expansion of Special Olympics Unified Flag Football, where individuals with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same team.

Since kicking off its national partnership with Special Olympics in 2017, the NFL has amplified this relationship through community programs at marquee events such as the Super Bowl, NFL Draft Week, and NFL Kickoff Week. With contributions from the NFL Foundation in 2019, Special Olympics provided grants to local Special Olympics programs in 15 states to help enhance Unified Sports programming and increase participation of athletes, Unified partners, and coaches across the country.

NFL PLAY 60 is the "Official Champion of Play" at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®, which is leading the way the world understands, treats, and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Since 2012, the NFL has raised more than $1.7 million for St. Jude through donations and the sale of items on NFL Auction. This partnership has given patients unique experiences at NFL events and raised support and awareness for the lifesaving mission of St. Jude: Finding cures. Saving children.®

The NFL and Shriners Hospitals for Children continue to provide opportunities for children with different physical abilities to live an active and healthy lifestyle so that no child is left on the sidelines. The NFL has teamed with Shriners Hospitals to create a free NFL PLAY 60 All-Ability Guide, which includes adaptive activities for children. The All-Ability guide is available at **nfl.com/PLAY60**.

# NFL Foundation Invests In Us

**THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDATION** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by the game of football. It represents the 32 NFL clubs and supports the health, safety, and wellness of athletes across all levels, including youth football and the communities that support the game.

The NFL Foundation manages more than 45 grant and recognition programs in support of its mission. This includes championing the development of youth football through funding support of USA Football, the sport's national governing body and a member of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. In 2019, the NFL Foundation issued a record number of grants to current and former NFL players, NFL club foundations, schools, and nonprofit organizations supporting youth and community wellbeing.

It provides multiple grant opportunities to support NFL players and Legends' philanthropic efforts, including the Legends Impact Grant – a new component to the NFL Foundation's Player Foundation Grant program to help support the most impactful foundations created by Legends and recognize their work in underserved communities and areas of high social need. Visit **nflfoundation.org** for more information.

As part of the NFL's Inspire Change platform, the NFL Foundation has awarded more than 520 Player Matching Social Justice Grants to support nonprofit organizations working in the social justice space in communities nationwide.

This year throughout Super Bowl LIV Week, in conjunction with Inspire Change, the NFL Foundation is hosting a 50/50 raffle. Visit **SuperBowl5050.com** to get your ticket.

**SUPERBOWL5050.COM**

## SUPER BOWL LEGACY GRANT TO BENEFIT SOUTH FLORIDA

Each year, the Super Bowl serves as a catalyst to support the local community in a significant and lasting way. The NFL, via the NFL Foundation, seeks to improve the Super Bowl host community through its Super Bowl Legacy Grant initiative by awarding an annual $1 million grant that is matched by the Super Bowl Host Committee and allocated to nonprofit organizations in the surrounding community.

Super Bowl Legacy Grant projects are identified by the NFL Foundation and Host Committee to help leave a legacy long after the Super Bowl has been played.

This year, the Super Bowl Legacy Grant initiative is supporting several different capital improvement projects in four regional focus areas of South Florida: Miami-Dade County, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami Beach, and Broward County. These projects include investment in and renovation of three youth field refurbishments that will convert grass fields to synthetic turf fields in Miami-Dade County (Gwen Cherry Park and Goulds Park) and Miami Beach (Miami Beach High School); iconic new lighting in Bayfront Park as part of downtown Miami's Baywalk along Biscayne Bay; and the creation of an Outdoor Fitness Zone at Plantation Heritage Regional Park in Broward County.

These projects will create opportunities for youngsters to play football and engage in athletic competition on improved athletic fields, and allow residents and visitors in South Florida to participate in exercise and outdoor activities in safe and upgraded walking paths and park facilities.

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# Highlighting Hispanic Fan Engagement

**THE NFL CONTINUES TO GROW ITS 360-DEGREE PLATFORM** of customized offerings for its strong and growing base of more than 28 million Hispanic fans. These offerings include: Hispanic-focused youth and football education programming; multi-platform Spanish-language media partnerships with ESPN Deportes, FOX Deportes, Entravision, and VICE; customized content; and Latino community outreach efforts throughout the season.

As part of this commitment, the NFL and all 32 clubs recognize Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of special events spanning Weeks 2-6. This year, the NFL continued with the theme of "Feel the Orgullo." In Spanish, "orgullo" means pride. Latino players, fans, and coaches have a strong sense of pride, not only in their culture but in their teams and the NFL.

Also in 2019, the NFL and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation partnered for the ninth annual NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Awards presented by Nationwide. The awards recognize the contributions of Hispanic leaders in each NFL market. Winners selected a non-profit organization of their choice that serves the local Hispanic community to receive a $2,000 donation.

This season also marked the fifth year of the league's Fuel Up to Play 60 en español, an evolution of its national flagship program. The platform encourages predominantly Hispanic communities nationwide to live healthier lifestyles through good nutrition and physical activity. This resource also offers Spanish-language content and materials, extending the reach and access of the program to students, teachers, and families across the country.

For the eighth year in a row, the NFL has partnered with Hall of Fame offensive tackle Anthony Muñoz to host NFL PLAY 60 Character Camps focused on offering Latino youth opportunities to play and experience the game of football. The camps' mission is to make a positive impact on youth through teaching football skills, emphasizing exercise, and reinforcing the importance of character in athletics and life.

For NFL news, videos, articles, analysis, and more updates in Spanish, visit **nfl.com/español**.

Derrick McCray's barbecue restaurant will be one of 33 vendors at the Super Bowl LIV Tailgate Party.

## BUSINESS CONNECT: FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Nearly 300 local diverse businesses in Miami won an opportunity to compete for contracts related to Super Bowl LIV. They represent general contractors, caterers, staging crews, staffing agencies, and signage shops – all women, minority, veteran, and LGBTQ-owned special event companies that are experienced and ready to work alongside NFL event producers at events leading up to gameday.

Over the past 12 months, Business Connect hosted professional development workshops, networking meetings, and Pitch Days so that member businesses understood the NFL's procurement process and would be positioned for success.

"Working with the NFL is a gamechanger," said Derrick McCray of McCray's Backyard Bar-B-Q, a longtime family business in Miami.

McCray's Bar-B-Q is among 33 Business Connect caterers hired to introduce Miami's diverse and vibrant cuisine to 11,000 guests at the prestigious NFL Tailgate Party. McCray said he'll be working non-stop throughout Super Bowl Week on multiple contracts, including NFL Tailgate.

"This is an awesome program," McCray said. "I feel like the Tom Brady of Business Connect."

Christine Cooper's staffing company, Hxecute, has been awarded four Super Bowl contracts – with more than 750 people credentialed to work as hospitality staff, stage managers, TV production runners, and mobility assistants. Hxecute also won a staff payroll accounting contract.

"Had it not been for Business Connect, we wouldn't have been able to get this side of our business off the ground," she said. "Business Connect propelled us to the next level."

Peyton Manning
Peyton Manning Children's Hospital
Evansville and Indianapolis, IN

Bubba Watson
Studer Family Children's Hospital
at Ascension Sacred Heart
Pensacola, FL

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Ascension Sacred Heart

Ascension St. John Children's Hospital

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ascension.org/pediatrics

# Engaging Our Communities

**THE NFL EMBRACES ITS ROLE** in unifying communities and serving as a force for positive change. The league and its teams are committed to implementing consistent and thoughtful responses to societal issues by educating the NFL family, instituting transparent policies, and actively engaging with communities to positively impact society.

The league focuses its efforts on social issues that include character education, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking prevention, as well as its ongoing work with teams, players, and the Players Coalition on social justice.

In recent years, the NFL has engaged with players, owners, clubs, public officials, and law enforcement, as well as many other individuals and organizations, to identify meaningful ways to strengthen communities on issues pertaining specifically to social justice as part of the Inspire Change campaign.

The NFL, in conjunction with its players, is focusing on three key areas: Education and Economic Advancement; Community-Police Relations; and the Criminal Justice System.

In addition, the league continues to educate its staff, teams, players, and the public about domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as identifying steps that can prevent them before they occur. All NFL and team employees and personnel – more than 6,000 in total – participated in year six of social responsibility education during the 2019 season.

The league also continued its practice of meeting with employees of local domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) organizations in conjunction with major NFL events.

The goal of these meetings is to update the groups on the league's social responsibility work and to listen to them about issues facing the field and ways the NFL and its clubs can help.

Additionally, the NFL continues its support for its partners at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline).

For more information, visit **community.nfl.com**.

## MEET THE NFL'S GREEN TEAM

NFL GREEN

The Super Bowl is recognized as the greenest sports championship in America – and for good reason. The NFL has been addressing the game's environmental impact for more than 25 years. Here are some projects taking place as part of Super Bowl LIV.

- The league is working with Force Blue, comprised of retired Special Ops veterans, to restore a section of Miami's endangered coral reef. Partners in the project include the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Verizon, the University of Miami, Frost Science Museum, and the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee.
- In partnership with Miami-Dade Parks and Verizon, NFL Green has planted trees, revitalized nature preserves and an island habitat, and built community gardens. Anheuser Busch also supported this initiative.
- Extra food from Super Bowl Week events is being collected and donated by Feeding South Florida and Food Rescue US to feed hungry people.
- Waste from Hard Rock Stadium will be diverted from landfills using recycling and waste-to-energy technology.
- Super Kids – Super Sharing, co-sponsored by the Miami Dolphins and St. Thomas University, collected tens of thousands of books, sports equipment, games, and school supplies for local children in need.
- Zoo Miami hosted an E-Waste public recycling rally, sponsored by Verizon, to collect tens of thousands of pounds of electronic waste to be recycled responsibly. Recycling E-Waste reduces the need to mine more minerals and saves vulnerable areas of animal habitat.
- Renewable energy certificates (RECs) are being used to offset energy usage at major event facilities.
- Reusable materials – décor, carpeting, signs, lumber, and other items – are being collected after Super Bowl events and donated for reuse and repurposing.

Please join the NFL Green Team in finding ways to reduce your own impact on the Earth!

PLAYER CARE FOUNDATION

## CARING FOR THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED

The NFL Player Care Foundation (PCF) is an independent foundation created in 2007 through a partnership among NFL owners, the NFL Players Association, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the NFL Alumni Association.

PCF is dedicated to helping former NFL players improve their quality of life by addressing a broad spectrum of needs, including financial assistance, medical support, vocational training, cardiovascular health, prostate health, mental health, and more.

PCF is proud to partner with one of the nation's premier medical providers – Tulane University School of Medicine – to conduct its annual Super Bowl Week Healthy Body & Mind Screening program. This complimentary national program is available to all former NFL players and includes cardiovascular, prostate, and mental health screenings.

Also during Super Bowl Week, PCF will host its 2nd Annual Career Fair, where former players will have the opportunity to meet and interview with recruiters from more than 30 national employers.

Since its inception, PCF has provided over $17.5 million to former players in need through financial grants and educational scholarships. Additionally, PCF has screened over 6,200 retired players and has identified numerous life-threatening medical issues that were addressed immediately.

To learn more about the NFL Player Care Foundation, visit **nflplayercare.com** or email **Dana.Lihan@NFL.com**.

Tulane University SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

NFL ALUMNI

# PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY

**THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** is working to drive progress in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of injuries to enhance medical protocols and to further improve the way our game is taught and played. At the heart of this work is the league's extensive and unique set of data used to inform changes on and off the field with the goal of reducing injury and evolving the game.

Analysis of on-field injury trends helped the NFL change rules in an effort to make the game safer. Examples of changes made in 2019 were the elimination of the wedge block and blindside block. Last season, modifications to the kickoff led to a 38% decrease in concussions on kickoff plays compared to the three-year average of reported concussions on those plays from 2015-2017.

The NFL is helping to drive the creation and adoption of better-performing equipment through a $60 million project called the Engineering Roadmap. As part of that work, expert bioengineers, on behalf of the NFL and NFLPA, perform an annual study to assess the performance of helmets worn by NFL players. This season saw 99% of players wearing top-performing helmets on those tests. Of the nine models new to the market in 2019, six ranked in the top 10 best-performing helmets, signaling that improvements in design, engineering, and technology are yielding better results.

During the 2019 season, the league also focused on the collection of data related to lower extremity injuries, which often require the most time for recovery. In addition to the collection and analysis of injury data, the league began tracking the cleats worn by every player, undertook an analysis of turf performance, evaluated training regimens, and partnered with medical committee experts to study lower extremity soft tissue injuries. This data collection will form the basis of a forthcoming lower extremity injury reduction plan.

As the NFL celebrates its 100th season, our health and safety initiatives continue to focus on the future of football. Soon the league will begin utilizing Amazon Web Services technology, including machine learning and artificial intelligence, to take its data-driven insights to the next level. These technologies could help develop new tools and generate deeper and better-informed insights into player injuries, including additional changes to on-field rules, better equipment, and new rehabilitation strategies geared to help predict and prevent injuries before they happen.

To learn more about the NFL's health and safety work, visit **NFL.com/playerhealthandsafety**.

# Growing the Game

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NFL'S VISION** to grow the game of football and engage youth participants, the "Play Football" initiative was launched in 2016. This year-round program celebrates youth and high school football by connecting the football community and promoting the values of the game.

Last April, Play Football Summer Season highlighted summer football in communities across the country, encouraged participation in summer youth and high school football activities, and increased visibility of grassroots camps hosted by partners, NFL clubs, and current and former NFL players.

During the 2019 Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week, NFL Youth Football celebrated hundreds of youth and high school football players alongside Pro Football Hall of Famers in Canton, Ohio. These youngsters took part in numerous NFL Play Football activities, including the Hall of Fame's annual "First Play" and the Play Football Skills Camp.

This year's Pro Bowl in Orlando afforded NFL Youth Football the opportunity to develop, lead, and collaborate with many youth, high school, and coaching groups on activating the largest league calendar platforms. Pro Bowl Week events included Play Football Opening Night; the NFL FLAG Championships; Play Football High School Skills Showdown; Play Football Middle School 11-ON; and the announcement of the 2019 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year winner.

In January, the NFL and Reigning Champs officially started their new partnership with NFL FLAG. Through this partnership, over 500,000 youth athletes are participating in more than 1,600 locally operated leagues across the country. A fun and accessible non-contact program, NFL FLAG is available for girls and boys ages 5-17 to engage in the game of flag football.

Learn more about the Play Football initiative by visiting **playfootball.com** and join the conversation on social media using **#PLAYFOOTBALL**.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COACHES

The Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award was created to honor exemplary high school football coaches who display the integrity, achievement, and leadership demonstrated by Don Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history and a two-time Super Bowl champion.

Each of the league's 32 clubs nominates a deserving coach from their pool of weekly Coach of the Week winners. All 32 coaches are invited to Orlando to participate in Pro Bowl festivities and this year's winner was announced during the 2020 Pro Bowl.

The NFL Foundation contributes $40,000 in grant awards, with the winner receiving $25,000 ($15,000 going to his school's football program). The winner and runner-up also are honored in various ways during Super Bowl Week. Last year's recipient was **Gabe Infante** (pictured), the head coach at St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia. Infante is currently the running backs coach at Temple University.

## MADD AND THE NFL TEAM UP FOR THE MOST VALUABLE POSITION

Last year, drunk and drugged driving claimed 10,511 lives and injured over 300,000 others. MADD and the NFL understand those numbers are unacceptable and remain focused on one number – Zero.

Zero deaths. Zero injuries. Zero families impacted by impaired driving.

Since 2010, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the NFL have worked together to eliminate drunk driving and remind fans that the Most Valuable Position at any game is the designated driver.

Over the past five years, more than 1.4 million fans have signed up to be designated drivers, and many NFL teams work with MADD volunteers on gameday to educate fans about the important role of a non-drinking designated driver.

Additionally, the NFL works with MADD to increase league and team staff awareness of the dangers of drunk and drugged driving as part of the NFL's annual Social Responsibility education. During the 2019 preseason, the MADD team – in partnership with the NFL's Player Engagement department – traveled across the country during the Rookie Transition Program to help rookies understand the impact of drunk driving, the power they have as role models, and to remind them to always have a plan to get home safely when their plans include alcohol.

"MADD is committed to our partnership with the National Football League, and we firmly believe that the Most Valuable Position on and off the field is the designated driver," said Adam Vanek, CEO of MADD. "Together, the NFL and MADD are working to create a future of No More Victims®."

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# Crucial Catch

**THE NFL, ITS CLUBS, PLAYERS,** and the American Cancer Society are committed to the fight against cancer. Crucial Catch addresses the early detection and risk reduction for multiple types of cancer, and is committed to addressing the unequal burden of cancer in underserved, high-risk communities.

Since 2009, this partnership has raised more than $20 million in support of the American Cancer Society and its mission to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. Money raised through the Crucial Catch initiative funds grants that help people in underserved communities receive potentially lifesaving screening resources.

With the NFL's support, the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates implementing Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program has awarded grants to more than 88 health system partners to address cancer prevention, early detection, and timely access to follow-up care. In 2019, an additional $1 million was awarded to health systems in eight NFL markets to pilot a CHANGE grant that addresses lung cancer mortality by increasing screenings and supporting smoking cessation efforts. The 11-year partnership has led to over one million people impacted, particularly in high-risk communities.

Throughout October, NFL games featured multi-colored Crucial Catch branding on the field and in stadiums to represent multiple cancers – including breast, colorectal, lung, cervical, prostate, and childhood – all to provide education and raise awareness of how cancer has impacted the lives of people in our communities on many levels.

As part of the Crucial Catch initiative, the NFL and American Cancer Society continue to provide individuals nationwide with access to The Defender, a free digital assessment tool that helps consumers better understand and reduce their cancer risk. The tool provides users with personalized, quick, and informative recommendations on how they can take action and adapt their lifestyles to reduce their risk of cancer.

To learn more about these efforts, visit **nfl.com/crucialcatch**.

Below the Belt:
Pain Men Shouldn't Ignore
Gentlemen, pain below the belt should never be ignored. Here are a few things you should keep in mind if you experience pain in the pelvic or groin area.
Painful Urination
Symptoms:
You feel pain or a burning sensation when urinating. You may also have frequent urges to urinate without results.
What it could be:
You may have a urinary tract infection (UTI), enlarged prostate or an early sign of bladder cancer.
What you should do:
Schedule an appointment with your doctor or urologist. You may need antibiotics to treat the infection. Because UTIs are not common in men, you may be advised to have other tests to determine if something else is causing the UTI.
Urology Care FOUNDATION
For more information, visit UrologyHealth.org.
Sudden Testicular Pain
Symptoms:
Imagine the pain that comes with a sharp kick to the groin. It feels much more than just a dull ache and because of it, you may have a hard time talking or walking. It could also include swelling of the scrotum.
What it could be:
Testicular torsion. This condition is when the flow of blood to a testicle gets cut off because the cord that connects the testicles to the body becomes twisted.
What you should do:
Get to a doctor right away. If you do have testicular torsion, it's an emergency because the testicle will become damaged without proper blood flow.
Pain in the Pelvic Area
Symptoms:
You have a hard time urinating, have pain in the pelvic area and feel like you have flu-like symptoms.
What it could be:
Prostatitis, which is an inflammation or infection of the prostate gland.
What you should do:
Make an appointment to see your health care provider. Prostatitis may get better on its own, but if it is caused by a bacterial infection, you may need antibiotics.

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# Saluting Our Military

**THE NFL'S SALUTE TO SERVICE IS THE LEAGUE'S** year-round effort to Honor, Empower, and Connect with our nation's service members, veterans, and their families. The league works with its core military nonprofit partners, including the Pat Tillman Foundation, TAPS, USO, the Bob Woodruff Foundation, and Wounded Warrior Project, to fund programs and provide resources that positively impact veterans, active duty military, and their families. Since 2011, more than $34 million has been raised through Salute to Service to support the league's military nonprofit partners.

NFL

### Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of Military Members and their Families

Throughout the year, the NFL, its clubs, and players honor and recognize service members, veterans, and their families at NFL events.

The NFL partners with TAPS to fund programs that support the families of those who sacrificed their lives serving our country. As a result of this partnership, more than 4,500 survivors who are a part of TAPS have been able to access youth mentorship, counseling, and opportunities to participate in NFL events.

### Empowering the Military Community through Partnerships and Resources

By partnering with organizations that support service members, veterans, and their families, the NFL uses its platform and resources to create a positive impact for our nation's heroes.

In an effort to honor leaders who exemplify Pat Tillman's enduring legacy of service, the NFL partners with the Pat Tillman Foundation, providing academic scholarships for more than 635 Tillman Scholars who are now pursuing careers in medicine, business, law, science, education, and the arts.

The NFL partners with Wounded Warrior Project to help provide wounded veterans with free programs and resources that empower them to live their lives to the fullest, on their own terms. The NFL's support has helped WWP fund the expansion of combat stress recovery programs, such as Project Odyssey, and serve more than 170,000 wounded veterans, family members, and care givers.

With a $2 million grant, the NFL helps fund Veteran Support Organizations through the Bob Woodruff Foundation to address the most urgent and emerging needs of our nation's veterans and their families.

### Connecting through the Shared Love of Football

The NFL brings service members and their families together through their shared love of football and provides opportunities for those serving to connect with one another.

For more than 50 years, the NFL has supported the USO and its mission to strengthen service members by keeping them connected to family, home, and country. Since 2007, NFL players and coaches have traveled on USO tours to 26 countries to meet and thank more than 96,500 service members.

For more information on these programs, please visit **nfl.com/salute.**

## NFL SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED BY USAA

SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD
USAA

The Salute to Service Award presented by USAA annually recognizes NFL players, coaches, personnel, and Legends who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community, as nominated by NFL clubs.

Nominees are evaluated based on the positive effect of the individual's efforts on the military community, the type of service conducted, the thoroughness of the program, and level of commitment. Team nominations are submitted in October and the award is presented during Super Bowl Week and recognized at the *NFL Honors* awards show.

First presented in 2011, recent recipients include former Panthers defensive end Jared Allen (2014), former Buccaneers wide receiver Vincent Jackson (2015), Falcons head coach Dan Quinn (2016), current Bills and former Falcons wide receiver Andre Roberts (2017), and current 49ers and former Falcons guard Ben Garland (2018).

A total of $50,000 is donated in the recipient's name, including $25,000 from USAA to the aid societies representing all five military branches and $25,000 from the NFL to the award recipient's military charity of choice.

USAA, Official NFL Salute to Service Sponsor, honors and appreciates active-duty military, veterans, and their families by creating unique opportunities that bring the military community and the NFL closer together. Examples include hosting "NFL Boot Camps" during training camp and at military installations at home and abroad, where military members compete in drills similar to those used at the NFL Combine, Super Bowl ticket giveaways for military veterans, and offering military members the chance to meet NFL players in small groups.

To learn more about this year's Salute to Service Award nominees, visit **nfl.com/salute**.

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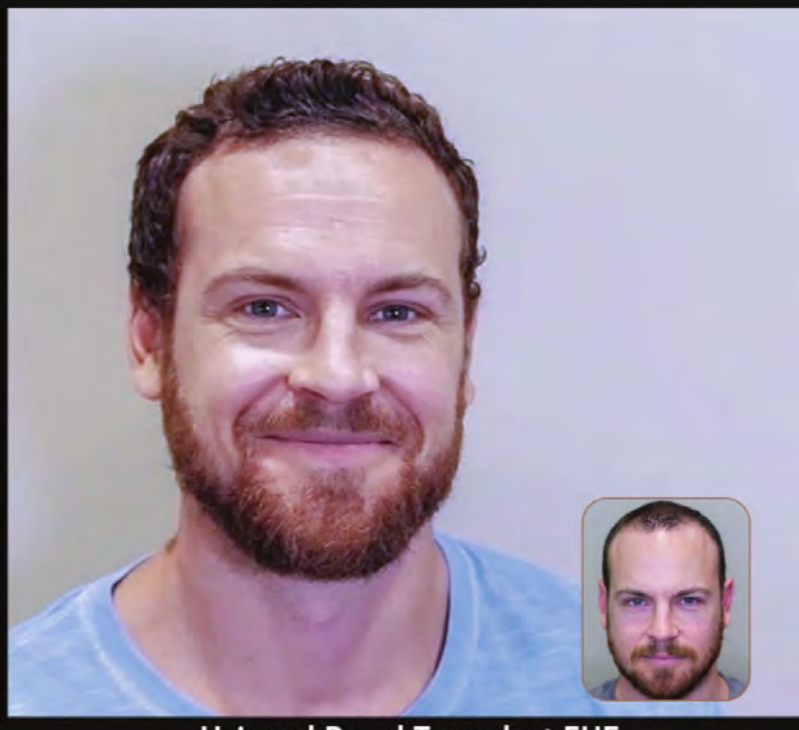

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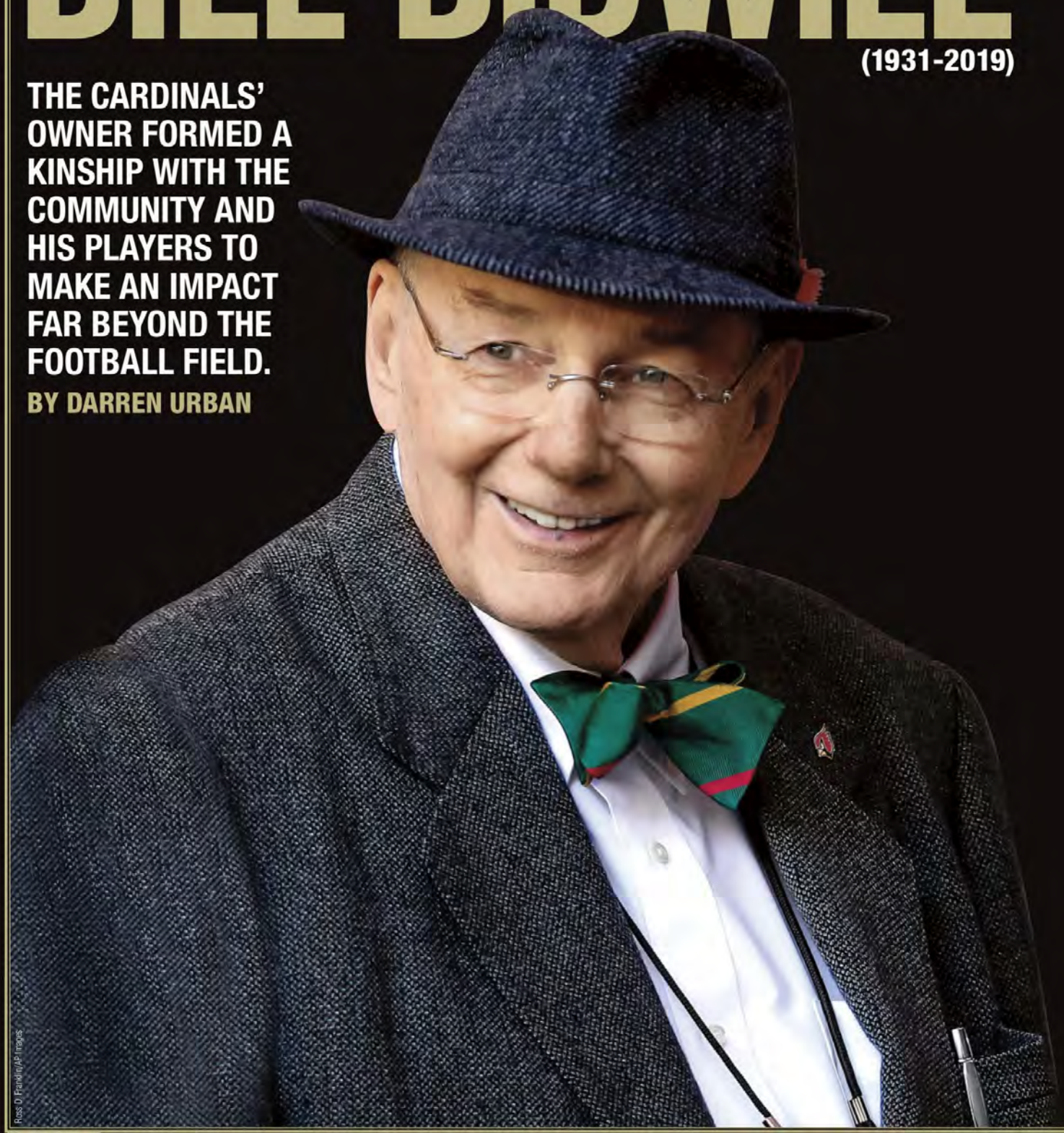
# REMEMBERING BILL BIDWILL

(1931-2019)

**THE CARDINALS' OWNER FORMED A KINSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND HIS PLAYERS TO MAKE AN IMPACT FAR BEYOND THE FOOTBALL FIELD.**

BY DARREN URBAN



Rose D. Franklin/AP Images

Dan Dierdorf had played 13 excellent seasons for the Cardinals at offensive tackle, but knowing his career was nearing an end, he wanted to deliver the news to team owner Bill Bidwill himself.

"I couldn't even get through a practice anymore because my knees were so bad," Dierdorf recalls of that 1983 season. "I'm in Bill's office and it's just the two of us. He actually got tears in his eyes and came over and shook my hand and said, 'Thank you for 13 wonderful years.'"

That was a prominent memory the Hall of Famer had of his former boss, who died in October at the age of 88.

Bidwill's legacy extended beyond football, even as his profile was shaped through his franchise.

"My father always taught me it wasn't what you did for a living, it's who you are that matters," former four-time Pro Bowl fullback and current Cardinals radio analyst Ron Wolfley says. "Although Mr. B did not experience a great deal of success as an NFL owner, he experienced a ton of success as a man."

Bill Bidwill had been sole owner of the Cardinals since 1972 and a part of the franchise since his father bought the then Chicago-based team in 1932. After serving as a team ballboy while growing up, Bidwill attended college and served in the United States Navy before returning to the Windy City to help the family's business interests – which included the Cardinals – in 1956.

He began working for the franchise full-time in 1960, the same year it moved to St. Louis. After Bidwill's mother, Violet, passed away in 1962, Bill and his brother Charles Jr. – better known as Stormy – inherited the team. Bill purchased Stormy's share of the franchise in 1972, and the Cardinals relocated to Arizona in 1988.

Michael Bidwill, now chairman and president of the team after his father's passing, remembers his father calling a family meeting in 1987 to have the entire Bidwill clan weigh in with their thoughts about whether the franchise should move. (They voted unanimously in favor of it, Michael says.) Until declining health forced Bill to stop traveling, Michael says his father never missed a league meeting or a Cardinals game.

"The effects of his illness had taken away his ability to speak, but not his ability to enjoy life," Michael says.

Bidwill was an early advocate of diversity in front-office hiring, making Bob Wallace the league's first African-American general counsel and chief contract negotiator in 1981 and Adele Harris the first African-American female executive in the NFL in 1978. Harris served more than 20 years as the team's director of community relations. In 2004, Bidwill promoted Rod Graves to general manager and named Dennis Green head coach, making the Cardinals the first franchise with minorities in both posts at the same time. In 2010, Bidwill was honored with the Tank Younger Award – recognizing an NFL official who has made an impact in minority hiring – from the Fritz Pollard Alliance.

Dedicated to philanthropy, Bidwill supported multiple charities throughout his time as team owner, including the creation of Cardinals Charities, the team's philanthropic arm dedicated to supporting worthy Arizona causes.

It mostly went unnoticed – because Bidwill wanted it that way.

"I can't tell you how many times I would go around the city and people would say, 'You know, Mr. Bill Bidwill was here two weeks ago and made a really nice donation to our foundation,' or 'Nobody ever really helps us and he's been really helpful,' and I'd be like, 'Wow. This is a reoccurring theme,'" says longtime face-of-the-franchise wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald. "His name was always coming up, but it's not like you read it in the paper or saw it on TV or heard it being talked about or recognized."

As the years went on, Bidwill wasn't able to spend as much time at the team's practice facility as he once did. But when he was there, it was during lunchtime when he liked to interact with the players.

**"I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I WOULD GO AROUND THE CITY AND PEOPLE WOULD SAY, 'YOU KNOW, MR. BILL BIDWILL WAS HERE... AND MADE A REALLY NICE DONATION TO OUR FOUNDATION.'"**

**– CARDINALS WIDE RECEIVER LARRY FITZGERALD**

"I'd always go sit and chat with him," former Cardinals quarterback Jake Plummer says. "Same with Pat Tillman.

"He really loved to engage and talk to his players."

Bidwill also loved the team's storybook run to Super Bowl XLIII during the 2008 season, which ended with the underdog Cardinals coming tantalizingly close to earning the Lombardi Trophy before the Steelers rallied in the final minute.

"During that 2008 run, I felt like Mr. B was more a part of things than before or even a little after," Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner says. "He understood how special that turning of the corner was. [I was able to] get to know him not just as the owner of the team, but as an individual, and I got to hear him through his voice. I enjoyed that."

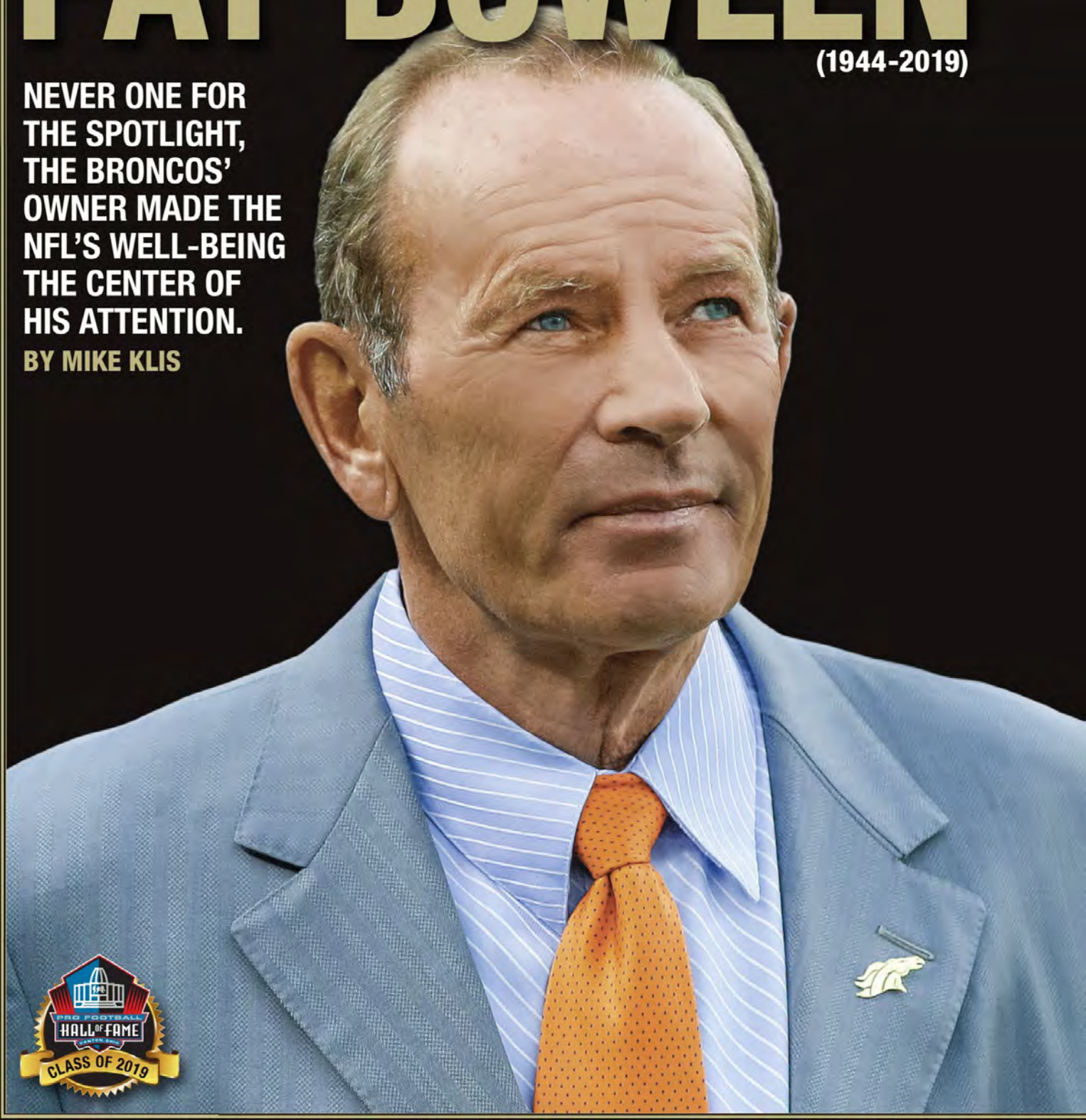
*__Darren Urban__ is the senior writer for azcardinals.com and has covered the Cardinals for 20 years.*

# REMEMBERING PAT BOWLEN

(1944-2019)

**NEVER ONE FOR THE SPOTLIGHT, THE BRONCOS' OWNER MADE THE NFL'S WELL-BEING THE CENTER OF HIS ATTENTION.**

BY MIKE KLIS



Maybe one reason why it took Pat Bowlen a few years longer than expected to get enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame is he made it look too easy.

His Denver Broncos averaged more than 10 wins a season during his 35 years as owner, and he was the first NFL owner in history to reach 300 wins in 30 years.

Perhaps the most incredible statistic that illustrates Bowlen's prowess as an owner, however, is this: His Broncos had as many Super Bowl appearances (7) as they did losing seasons. And he brought not one head coach to those Super Bowls, but four – Dan Reeves, Mike Shanahan, John Fox, and Gary Kubiak.

Bowlen died at age 75 on June 13, 2019 – just seven weeks before he was formally enshrined in Canton – following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's. Those who knew him best are quick to note that he didn't just have an enchanted spell on the Broncos; his influence on the NFL itself is immeasurable.

As head of the league's television committee during what is often called the NFL's transitional period from the late 1980s to early '90s, league revenue riches soared far beyond any other sport.

His work on the labor committee led to new collective bargaining agreements, and he was at the forefront of the league's new stadium construction movement in the early 21st century when his tireless campaign to taxpayers led to the 2001 opening of what is now called Empower Field at Mile High.

His success wasn't by accident.

"It's not a coincidence," says Terrell Davis, a Hall of Fame running back who helped the Broncos win back-to-back Super Bowls in 1997-98. "Just like for our parents – not that we don't play hard for ourselves and our family – but it's special when you can give somebody something they can't get themselves. Pat couldn't give himself a Super Bowl trophy. Pat had all the money in the world. You can't go buy a trophy. But as a player, you're like, 'I don't want to disappoint him.'

"With his committees in the NFL, it wasn't about one side or the other. He wanted to make sure both sides worked together and that it worked for both. Some people aren't like that."

Over the course of 1984 and '85, Bowlen and two of his siblings spent $71 million to purchase the Broncos. The team is now worth $2.7 billion.

"I couldn't tell you I thought it was going to become what it is," Bowlen said in his last public interview in August 2013. "When you get into this business, at an age when you're a lot younger than I am now, you don't really know what you're doing.

"It takes you a while to adjust. To me, it was a real challenge. It was a fun deal. You have your disappointments. You have your losses and your wins.

"When you come in and buy a football team, you don't really understand the picture until you're there for a while."

Bowlen's humility was ever present. He figured it out quicker than most. Inheriting a team that hadn't won a playoff game in six years, the Broncos went 13-3 in Bowlen's first season as owner. They reached the Super Bowl in just his third season.

The Broncos franchise he left behind has often been dependent, in some form or another, on a man named John Elway. A Hall of Fame quarterback with five Super Bowl appearances and two championships, Elway has more recently brought two more Super Bowl appearances and the Super Bowl 50 title to Denver as the team's general manager.

One of Bowlen's final acts as an active owner was to hire Elway as the team's general manager in 2011. They just don't make owner-player relationships in team sports like the one Bowlen and Elway had.

"Other than my father, I don't know if anybody had more of an influence on my life than Pat," Elway says. "For that, I'm very, very grateful."

When Bowlen passed away, Elway wanted to make sure he delivered the proper testimony.

"I thought about it, 'What's the one thing I can say about Pat that people would remember?'" Elway says. "And I think it's that he ran this team with heart rather than his pocketbook. He set the standard that we're going to compete for world championships.

"He was a great competitor. There was not a better owner for a player or general manager to work for than a guy who wants to be successful on the field and wants to win football games. So when the standard is set at the top like that, it's much easier as a manager to carry it on throughout the organization."

There is ample evidence that Bowlen never stuffed his winnings in his pocket – from the team's first-class travel accommodations for road games to the $35 million he invested in renovations, additions, and upgrades to the team's home headquarters.

It wasn't just the team that benefitted from Bowlen's generosity, either. Bowlen formed Denver Broncos Charities in 1993. In the 26 years that followed, he donated more than $35 million to Denver-area organizations.

> **"WITH HIS COMMITTEES IN THE NFL, IT WASN'T ABOUT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE BOTH SIDES WORKED TOGETHER."**
>
> **– TERRELL DAVIS, TWO-TIME SUPER BOWL-WINNING RUNNING BACK WITH THE BRONCOS**

And consider this: There are 123 North American sports teams, and Bowlen is the only owner to fund his own branch of the Boys & Girls Club, which he did in the Montebello section of Denver in 2003.

Bowlen left behind his wife, Annabel, seven children – Amie, Beth, Patrick III, John, Brittney, Annabel, and Christianna – and a plan for one of his kids to one day take charge of the winning tradition he built with the Broncos.

"If something were to happen to me, I've already made this clear: This team is going to stay in the Bowlen family no matter what," he said in that 2013 interview. "It's a great asset. And it's a lot of fun if you do it right."

*Mike Klis covers the Broncos for KUSA-TV 9News in Denver. He previously covered the team for* The Denver Post.

Courtesy of Denver Broncos

Second
in

**Nick Foles is the most recent** quarterback to go from backup to Super Bowl star, leading the Eagles to victory over the Patriots in Super Bowl LII.

Aaron M. Sprecher/AP Images

**WHEN TEAMS INSERT A BACKUP QUARTERBACK, IT CAN LEAD TO PANIC OR PROVIDE HOPE. IT CAN ALSO PRODUCE A SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP.** BY JEFF NELSON

# Command

The obsession with a backup quarterback is natural. Fans are conditioned to ponder – as early as the first hint of a crack in the starter's play – about a team's future and the potential results from a likely untested and unproven player.

The results don't typically match the hopes. There are occasions, though, when teams find that diamond on the sideline; and when it comes to the Super Bowl, it's surprising how often a No. 2 signal-caller has been instrumental in his team finishing No. 1.

On at least 10 occasions in the Super Bowl era, a quarterback who wasn't the starter when training camp began hoisted the Lombardi Trophy at season's end.

Two of those 10 were thrust into the lineup after late-season injuries to the starter, while another took over during the Super Bowl. Six of the backups made such a dynamic impact that they earned the Pete Rozelle Award as the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player: Hall of Famers Roger Staubach (Super Bowl VI) and Kurt Warner (XXXIV), along with Jim Plunkett (XV), Doug Williams (XXII), Tom Brady (XXXVI), and, most recently, Nick Foles (LII).

"The road to the Super Bowl is obviously challenging," says NFL historian Joe Horrigan, who retired last June as executive director of the Pro Football Hall of Fame after a 42-year career at the Canton institution. "Football is the consummate team sport. It took great performances from some unlikely candidates in the most important and pressure-filled game they'd ever experienced.

"While I don't think any one of the 10 would admit to having doubt in their ability to deliver, they had to do it on the world's biggest stage and knowing that many, if not most, observers doubted they could. All had challenging paths to travel, but I think the one who may have traveled down the most challenging was Doug Williams."

At the very least, Williams delivered the most unexpected and electric Super Bowl performance of the group. The former first-round pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had spent the 1984 and '85 seasons in the rival United States Football League, but after the USFL folded, he signed on with the Washington Redskins as a backup to Jay Schroeder. He mostly continued in that role in 1987, starting two games as the Redskins compiled an 11-4 record during the strike-shortened season. Though the Redskins won the NFC East, coach Joe Gibbs surprisingly turned to Williams for the playoffs. The veteran QB didn't produce gaudy stats, but he did direct wins over Chicago and Minnesota that launched Washington into Super Bowl XXII against Denver.

Williams had more to deal with, however, than the Broncos' defense. Already garnering attention as the first African-American quarterback to start a Super Bowl, on the eve of the game he underwent an emergency root canal. Then, in the first quarter, he twisted his right knee and was briefly sidelined. By the time the game was 15 minutes old, the Broncos had momentum and a 10-0 lead.

The game's second 15 minutes, however, were a stunning reversal. Williams and the Redskins blitzed Denver with 35 points to take a commanding lead en route to a 42-10 victory. The former Grambling standout set Super Bowl marks that still stand – among them his 228 passing yards and four touchdown passes in the second quarter – while his four scoring strikes in one half are tied for the most. Williams finished with 340 passing yards, a total that would have been much higher if not for the contest being a blowout by halftime.

"His performance was one for the ages," Horrigan says. "Williams once said he didn't come to the Redskins – the last NFL team to integrate – as a 'black quarterback.' His win and MVP honors established that in the NFL thereafter no one else would come to a team as a black quarterback. Henceforth, there would only be 'quarterbacks.'"

**Doug Williams' MVP performance** in Super Bowl XXII had quite the backstory. The Redskins' backup QB for most of 1987, he needed an emergency root canal the night before the game and then overcame a first-quarter knee injury to dominate the Broncos.

Foles similarly had his share of skeptics two years ago when he took over the Eagles' QB duties after Carson Wentz suffered a torn ACL in a Week 14 win over the Rams. Though Philly fans had seen him dazzle – in 2013, he threw for 27 touchdowns with just two interceptions – Foles had bounced around to the Rams and the Chiefs without much success and even contemplated retirement before re-signing with the Eagles in 2017.

**"GET PREPARED MENTALLY FOR WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FACE, AND THROW EVERYTHING ELSE OUT."**

**– JEFF HOSTETLER**

Foles was uneven in directing Philadelphia to wins in two of its final three regular-season games and its Divisional playoff victory over Atlanta, prompting some fans to even clamor for *his* backup, Nate Sudfeld, to take over as the starter. But Foles found his footing in the NFC Championship Game against Minnesota, then performed beyond all expectations in the 41-33 victory over the Patriots in Super Bowl LII. He also etched his name into Super Bowl lore with one of the championship game's most memorable plays, the "Philly Special," catching a TD pass from tight end Trey Burton to give the Eagles a 10-point halftime edge.

Philadelphia coach Doug Pederson never had any doubts about Foles.

"My confidence level, even when Carson went down, was, 'We're going to be fine,'" he told NFL Network. "We've got a guy (Foles) that's played a ton of football in this league. It was just a matter of time with him being around the players and getting some timing and some rhythm."

Foles' compelling story mirrors one that took place 27 years earlier. The 1990 New York Giants were cruising to the NFC East title, but when starting signal-caller Phil Simms was injured in a Week 15 loss to Buffalo, it thrust Jeff Hostetler into the starting lineup. A six-year veteran, but with just two starts on his résumé, Hostetler guided the Giants to a pair of wins to complete a 13-3 regular season and followed that with playoff victories over Chicago and San Francisco, creating a Super Bowl matchup against high-flying Buffalo in Super Bowl XXV.

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Hostetler executed the Giants' offensive game plan against the Bills to perfection. In a tense second half, he calmly led 14- and 13-play drives, the latter leading to Matt Bahr's 21-yard field goal midway through the final quarter that accounted for the 20-19 win.

"For [me], it was just leave all the outside stuff and put it away," Hostetler told *Newsday* in 2018 about his preparation for the game. "Just get away from it. Get prepared, get prepared mentally for what you are going to face, and throw everything else out, those outside forces. You just want to make sure you've done everything you can to prepare yourself to be successful."

Only once, in Super Bowl V, has a quarterback entered and won the Super Bowl after the starter was injured during the game. That was the Baltimore Colts' Earl Morrall, who took the field in the second quarter for starter Johnny Unitas.

Morrall's appearance was unique for reasons in addition to the in-game rib injury to Unitas. First, Morrall was no ordinary backup, having made 81 starts to that point in his career and being selected the 1968 NFL MVP with the Colts after leading the league with 26 touchdown passes. Second, he didn't throw a single pass on the two fourth-quarter scoring drives that brought Baltimore back from a seven-point deficit to win, 16-13, over the Cowboys.

The first drive was set up when Colts defensive back Rich Folk returned an interception deep into Dallas territory. Two plays later, Tom Nowatzke's 2-yard scoring run tied the game at 13. Then, with time running out, Baltimore linebacker Mike Curtis grabbed a deflected pass and returned it inside the Cowboys 30-yard line. A pair of Norm Bulaich runs positioned rookie kicker Jim O'Brien for the game-winning 32-yard field goal with five seconds to play.

The following year, the Cowboys turned to their own reserve quarterback on the way to their first Super Bowl title. Craig Morton was the starter when the 1971 season began, but after a loss to Chicago dropped Dallas to 4-3, coach Tom Landry handed the reins to Staubach. The 1963 Heisman Trophy winner, who spent four years in the Navy before joining the Cowboys, led the team to seven consecutive victories to close out the regular season followed by playoff wins over Minnesota and San Francisco. Staubach then threw two touchdown passes in leading Dallas over Miami, 24-3, in Super Bowl VI.

The Steelers followed a similar path in 1974 in winning their initial Super Bowl. Joe Gilliam opened the season as the starter, but Terry Bradshaw took over in Week 7 and directed Pittsburgh to a 6-2 finish and the AFC Central title. In Super Bowl IX against the Vikings, the No. 1 overall selection in the 1970 NFL Draft tossed a touchdown pass to Larry Brown with 3:38 to play, putting a cap on the 16-6 win.

Plunkett was another No. 1 overall selection – by the Patriots in 1971 – but as the 1980 season began, he was the backup to Dan Pastorini in Oakland. When Pastorini was sidelined for the season after breaking his leg in Week 5, coach Tom Flores called on Plunkett. He proceeded to guide the Raiders to a 9-2 record and an AFC Wild Card berth, though the best was still to come.

Oakland beat Houston, Cleveland, and San Diego to advance to a Super Bowl XV clash with Philadelphia, where Plunkett threw a pair of

**Top:** Terry Bradshaw opened 1974 as the Steelers' No. 2 quarterback, but by season's end was the starter as Pittsburgh won its first Super Bowl championship. **Middle:** Jim Plunkett authored an improbable comeback story with the 1980 Raiders that ended with a victory in Super Bowl XV. **Bottom:** Entering the lineup late in the 1990 campaign, Jeff Hostetler kept the Giants' Super Bowl hopes on track.

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**Top:** Nick Foles (throwing) ensured the Eagles soared through the 2017 playoffs after a late-season injury to starting QB Carson Wentz (background). **Middle:** Kurt Warner (left) stepped in to start for the 1999 Rams after a preseason injury to Trent Green (right). **Bottom:** Drew Bledsoe (left) and Tom Brady both had big moments for the 2001 Patriots.

first-quarter touchdown passes as the Raiders cruised, 28-10, to become the first Wild Card team to win the Super Bowl. Plunkett remained with the Raiders for six more seasons, including the 1983 campaign, when they defeated the Redskins to capture Super Bowl XVIII.

"Our type of system was almost perfect for Jim," Flores told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The players liked him. They rallied around him and he just rose to the occasion, making big plays in big games."

The start of Kurt Warner's path to Super Bowl glory was the complete opposite. Undrafted, he played in NFL Europe until being signed by the St. Louis Rams in 1998. He was second on the depth chart entering 1999 behind Trent Green, who was slated to direct what was expected to be an explosive Rams attack.

But when Green was injured in preseason, Warner took over and the Rams didn't miss a beat. He was named the league's MVP after leading the "Greatest Show on Turf" to a then-NFL record 526 points, a 13-3 record, and the NFC West title. In Super Bowl XXXIV against the Titans, he threw for 414 yards, capped by a 73-yard, game-winning scoring strike to Isaac Bruce with 2:06 to play in the Rams' 23-16 victory.

A year later, Trent Dilfer ascended to lead the Ravens to their first Super Bowl championship. He began the 2000 season behind Tony Banks, but when Baltimore went five consecutive games without an offensive touchdown, Dilfer became the starter. Backed by the league's No. 1 defense, he helped the Ravens to a seven-game winning streak to earn an AFC Wild Card berth. Dilfer, who had playoff experience three years earlier in Tampa Bay, threw for 590 yards and three TDs in the Ravens' four postseason victories, highlighted by a 38-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Stokley in Super Bowl XXXV that sparked a one-sided win over the New York Giants.

Most NFL fans are familiar with Tom Brady's Super Bowl origins. The sixth-round pick was in his second season in 2001, positioned behind Drew Bledsoe, who had just signed a 10-year contract extension with the Patriots. But when Bledsoe was knocked out of action in a Week 2 game against the Jets, Brady stepped in. While his numbers were modest, he exhibited maturity and decision-making beyond his years. With Brady behind center, the Patriots went 11-3 the rest of the season, won the AFC East, and capped their playoff run with a stunning upset of the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Forgotten by most is that Brady was sidelined after injuring his ankle in the second quarter of the AFC Championship Game against the Steelers. And who took over? Bledsoe. The backup who had been the starter did his part, completing 10 of 21 passes, including an 11-yard scoring strike to David Patten, in the team's 24-17 victory.

"The fact that I actually got to go on the field and play in that game has allowed me to wear that Super Bowl ring from time to time with some pride," Bledsoe told the late Don Banks in 2017. "I enjoyed that moment with my teammates. I had a ton of great friends on that team and there were a lot of guys extremely happy for me, that I got to go in there and take part in that game, which was cool."

***Jeff Nelson*** *worked in athletic communications for 34 years at Holy Cross and Penn State, including 22 years as the Nittany Lions' primary football communications contact.*

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**Mount Sinai Orthopedics**

# TOP CLASS of the

**WHEN IT COMES TO PRODUCING SUPER BOWL HEROES, THE 1979 DRAFT RANKS #1.**

**BY GREGG ROSENTHAL**

**Phil Simms was such an unpopular pick** by the New York Giants in 1979 that fans booed his selection twice.

That year's NFL Draft, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, was a quaint affair compared to today's outdoor football festivals, and the event was so low key that NFL Films missed the moment when Commissioner Pete Rozelle first stepped to the microphone to announce the Giants had selected the blonde kid out of Morehead State.

As the story goes, a cameraman asked Rozelle to announce the selection again so they could preserve the groans for posterity. Rozelle did it with a grin as wide as Wall Street in a moment that would help make the draft one of the NFL's signature events and 1979 one of its signature drafts.

There are drafts with more Hall of Famers, more depth, and bigger star power. But there's no other draft class with three different Super Bowl MVPs, men defined by signature works on the biggest stage possible. When ranking the best-ever draft classes of Super Bowl heroes, it's impossible not to go back to that room in the Waldorf-Astoria.

By the time coach Bill Walsh and the San Francisco 49ers selected Joe Montana with the No. 82 overall pick, the cameras were long gone. Montana was hardly an unknown playing for Notre Dame, but scouts questioned his pro potential because of his arm strength. Walsh famously preferred Simms to Montana, telling Simms that the 49ers would select him with the No. 29 overall pick if he were available. The 49ers wound up "settling" for Montana, who two years later won his first of three league MVP awards and first of three Super Bowl MVP awards.

The 49ers gave Montana a wide receiving target when they plucked Dwight Clark in the 10th round of that same '79 draft. While Montana and Clark's connection was immortalized in "The Catch" to win the 1981 NFC Championship Game, Clark also excelled in two Super Bowl starts, with 10 combined catches for 122 yards and the game-clinching onside kick recovery in Super Bowl XVI against Cincinnati.

Montana and Simms traveled dramatically different career paths, but each cemented their legend on Super Bowl Sunday. Montana's game-winning drive against the Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII has come to symbolize surgical late-game cool. And yet there may be no more famous quarterback stat line in Super Bowl history than Simms completing 22 of 25 passes against the Broncos in Super Bowl XXI, including three touchdown throws, an example of an athlete achieving his absolute peak in the biggest moments.

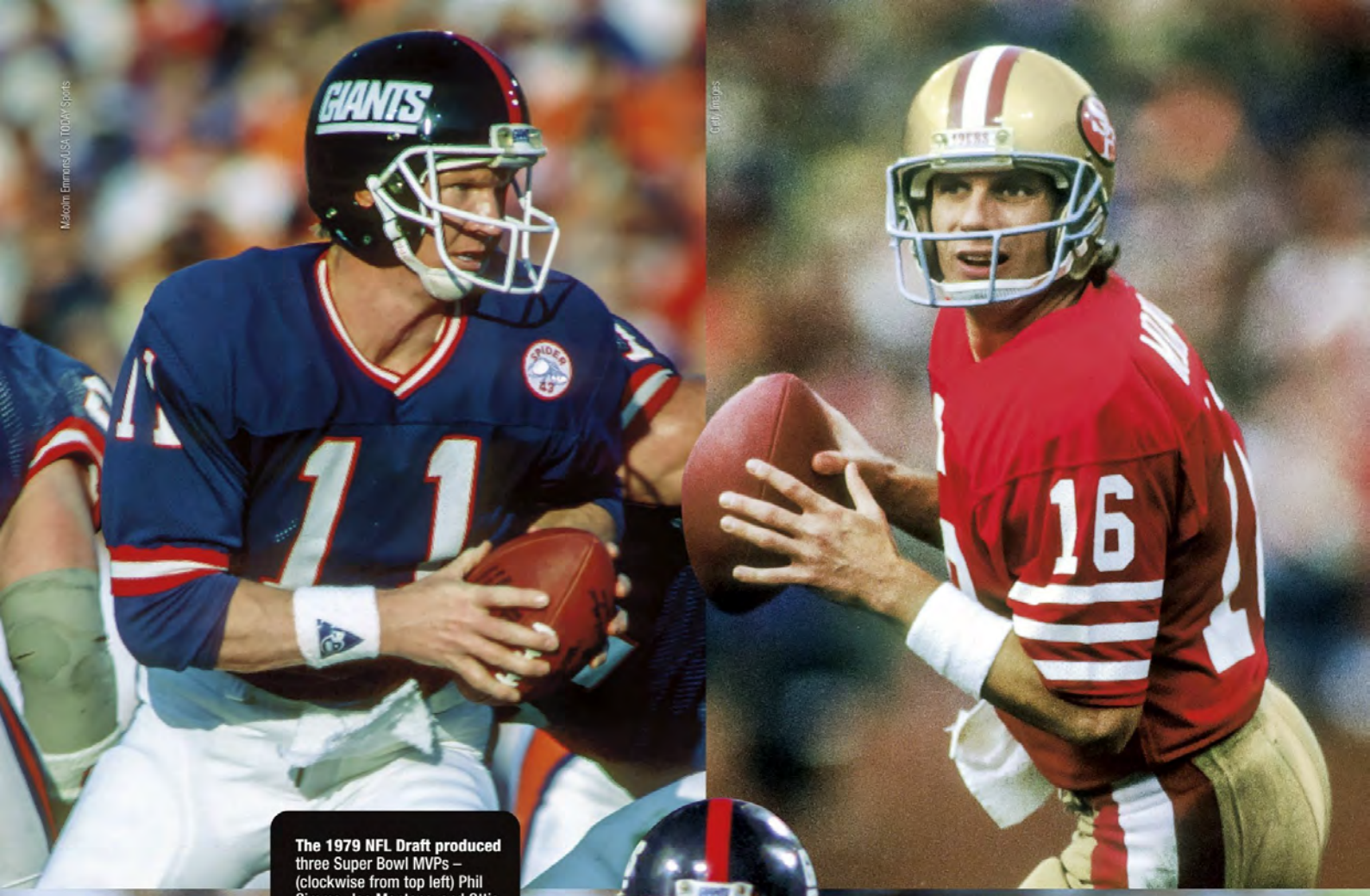
Those are the kind of moments that so many players in the greatest Super Bowl draft classes achieved. Sometimes they came from all-time greats like Montana, but just as often they came from players like Super Bowl XXV MVP Ottis Anderson.

Taken No. 8 overall in 1979 by the St. Louis Cardinals – just one pick after the boos for Simms subsided – Anderson was an aging warhorse whose best days appeared to be behind him. After rushing for 1,000 yards in five of his first six NFL seasons, he managed a total of 930 yards from 1985-88 and was a backup to Joe Morris when the Giants won Super Bowl XXI. He bounced back to gain 1,023 yards as a starter in 1989, and with Simms hurt during the team's 1990 playoff run, Anderson helped carry the Giants to a second title, a full 11 seasons after he won the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year Award.

His 102 rushing yards in the Super Bowl win over Buffalo changed his legacy forever, although he didn't score the winning points in the game. Those came from Matt Bahr, who had a perfect night kicking in a game largely remembered for an imperfect kick to end it. Bahr was yet another 1979 draft pick, taken in the sixth round by the Steelers, and who, incidentally, hit all of his kicks in Pittsburgh's Super Bowl XIV victory over the Rams his rookie year.

Another notable name who helped put the '79 draft class over the top is Bears Hall of Fame defensive tackle Dan Hampton, taken three spots ahead of Simms at No. 4 overall. For so many players, there's often only one chance to enjoy the Super Bowl spotlight. Hampton was a big part of perhaps the greatest defense of the NFL's modern era, recording a sack and recovering a fumble in Chicago's blowout victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

1979 ranks as the greatest Super Bowl draft class of all time, but it wasn't easy to pick it over these impressive groups:




Malcolm Emmons/USA TODAY Sports

Getty Images

**The 1979 NFL Draft produced** three Super Bowl MVPs – (clockwise from top left) Phil Simms, Joe Montana, and Ottis Anderson – the most of any draft in league history.

USA TODAY Sports

### 1983 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Roger Craig, Richard Dent, John Elway, Willie Gault, Darrell Green, Jim Jeffcoat, Jim Kelly, Charles Mann, Dan Marino, Leonard Marshall

The most famous quarterback draft of all time doesn't lack for Super Bowl star power. Elway wrote the book on career closing chapters; Dent was the MVP on the Most Valuable Defense the Super Bowl era has ever seen; Craig piled up more than 400 yards from scrimmage with four touchdowns in three Super Bowl wins; Green had an interception (of Kelly) in a Super Bowl victory; and Marshall recorded three combined sacks in the Giants' Super Bowl XXI and XXV wins.

### 1971 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Lyle Alzado, Larry Brown (Steelers), Jack Ham, Ernie Holmes, Jim Plunkett, John Riggins, Jack Tatum, Joe Theismann

Riggins' "Run to Glory" for a 43-yard touchdown remains an iconic Super Bowl moment and is typical of the incredible storylines that came from the 1971 class. Taken sixth overall by the Jets, Riggins waited 12 seasons before experiencing his first playoff win with Washington. He rushed for 610 yards that postseason on his way to Super Bowl XVII MVP honors.

Plunkett, taken first overall in 1971 by the Patriots, was one of the game's great reclamation projects, winning two titles after washing out in New England and San Francisco. Tatum, selected 18 picks after Plunkett, won his ring before Plunkett ever arrived in Oakland. Lyle Alzado is so well remembered for his impact on football off the field that it's easy to forget he had two sacks in Super Bowl XII for the Broncos.

### 1981 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Charlie Brown, Cris Collinsworth, Russ Grimm, Howie Long, Ronnie Lott, Dexter Manley, Mark May, Mike Singletary, Dennis Smith, Lawrence Taylor, Eric Wright

You don't have to go any further than Long, Lott, Singletary, and Taylor. There isn't a nastier group of defensive players imaginable.

### 1974 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Dave Casper, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Jack Lambert, John Stallworth, Lynn Swann, Mike Webster

The 1974 Steelers four-pack of Hall of Famers remains the greatest draft haul in NFL history, and Dave Casper's boffo performance for the Raiders in Super Bowl XI (4 receptions, 70 yards, 1 TD) gives this class even more juice.

### 2012 Draft

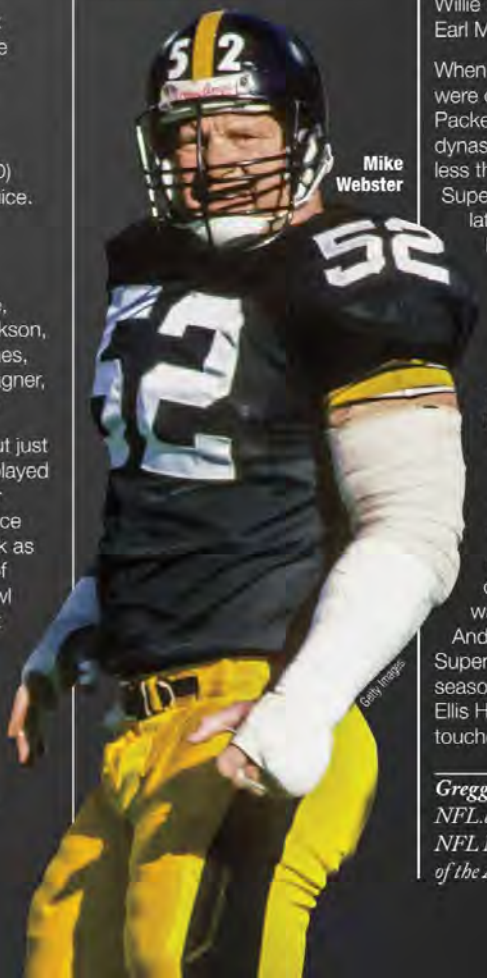
**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Nick Foles, Stephon Gilmore, Dont'a Hightower, Malik Jackson, Alshon Jeffery, Chandler Jones, Kelechi Osemele, Bobby Wagner, Russell Wilson, Derek Wolfe

This group looks random, but just think of all the players who played out of their skull in the Super Bowl. Nick Foles' performance against the Patriots may rank as the greatest overall display of quarterbacking in Super Bowl history. Wilson led a blowout win over Peyton Manning's Broncos. Hightower made game-changing plays in three different Super Bowl wins. Jackson, Jeffery, Wolfe, and Gilmore all played their apex games to win titles. Sometimes it's not the biggest names that get remembered.

### 1964 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Bill Curry, Carl Eller, Bob Hayes, Paul Krause, Mel Renfro, Matt Snell, Roger Staubach, Paul Warfield

From perhaps the greatest Cowboys draft ever (Staubach, Renfro, and Hayes) to a key member of the Lombardi Packers (Curry) to the Jets' engine behind their Super Bowl III upset (Snell), this group has a bit of everything. And even though Eller and Krause never sealed the deal, the '70s Vikings' constant presence in the Super Bowl helped make them household names.




### 1985 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Mark Bavaro, Jay Novacek, William Perry, Andre Reed, Jerry Rice, Bruce Smith

Pretty impressive class of receivers, led by Jerry Rice, who nearly had more receiving yards (215) in his Super Bowl XXIII MVP performance than the opposing Bengals had total yards (229). Bavaro caught the go-ahead TD in the Giants' first Super Bowl victory, and Reed totaled 27 receptions across four Super Bowl appearances.

### 1956 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Willie Davis, Forrest Gregg, Earl Morrall, Bart Starr

When Bart Starr and Forrest Gregg were drafted by Lombardi and the Packers, no one had any clue a dynasty was being born, much less that something called the Super Bowl would begin 11 years later. Starr, drafted with pick No. 200, twice won the game's MVP honors. Morrall, who was part of three Super Bowl teams, was taken second overall.

### 2000 Draft

**KEY SUPER BOWL FIGURES:** Shaun Alexander, Tom Brady, Plaxico Burress, Jamal Lewis, Brian Urlacher

Who needs depth in a draft class when a six-time champion quarterback was selected 199th overall? And Brady might have seven Super Bowls and an undefeated season if Burress hadn't beaten Ellis Hobbs for the game-winning touchdown in Super Bowl XLII.

*Gregg Rosenthal has written for NFL.com since 2012, appears on NFL Network, and is one of the hosts of the Around the NFL podcast.*

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# K.C. CONQUERS EARLY TESTS

## Chiefs joined by Patriots and 49ers as NFL's last undefeated teams.

Backed up by big plays on both sides of the ball, the Kansas City Chiefs took charge in the AFC West by winning their first four games, three of which were on the road.

Their Week 4 victory may have been the most impressive. After trailing the Lions on four separate occasions, they finally prevailed, 34-30, on Darrel Williams' 1-yard TD run with 23 seconds remaining. Earlier in the game, cornerback Bashaud Breeland returned a fumble 100 yards for a Kansas City touchdown.

The Chiefs opened the season with a 40-26 win over the Jaguars as Patrick Mahomes threw for 378 yards and three TDs, all to Sammy Watkins, including a 68-yard connection on the game's third play. A huge second quarter then lifted Kansas City past the Raiders, 28-10, in Week 2. Trailing 10-0, Mahomes orchestrated the rally with four scoring strikes before halftime, and his 278 passing yards in the second quarter were the most by an NFL player in a quarter in 11 seasons. In Week 3, he threw for 374 yards to key a 33-28 decision over the Ravens.

Matching the Chiefs win for win, however, were the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots, whose 4-0 mark was the result of a defense yielding just 6.8 ppg and that had already totaled 10 interceptions and 18 sacks. In the NFC, the 49ers stood atop the hotly contested NFC West, the result of victories over Tampa Bay, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh.

### NFL Standings Through WEEK 4

| AFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patriots | 4-0-0 | 1.000 | 122 | 27 |
| Bills | 3-1-0 | .750 | 76 | 63 |
| Jets | 0-3-0 | .000 | 33 | 70 |
| Dolphins | 0-4-0 | .000 | 26 | 163 |

| AFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Browns | 2-2-0 | .500 | 89 | 91 |
| Ravens | 2-2-0 | .500 | 135 | 100 |
| Steelers | 1-3-0 | .250 | 76 | 88 |
| Bengals | 0-4-0 | .000 | 57 | 110 |

| AFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texans | 2-2-0 | .500 | 78 | 78 |
| Colts | 2-2-0 | .500 | 94 | 102 |
| Jaguars | 2-2-0 | .500 | 84 | 84 |
| Titans | 2-2-0 | .500 | 91 | 62 |

| AFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chiefs | 4-0-0 | 1.000 | 135 | 94 |
| Raiders | 2-2-0 | .500 | 79 | 102 |
| Chargers | 2-2-0 | .500 | 90 | 74 |
| Broncos | 0-4-0 | .000 | 70 | 93 |

| NFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cowboys | 3-1-0 | .750 | 107 | 56 |
| Eagles | 2-2-0 | .500 | 110 | 105 |
| Giants | 2-2-0 | .500 | 87 | 97 |
| Redskins | 0-4-0 | .000 | 66 | 118 |

| NFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Packers | 3-1-0 | .750 | 85 | 69 |
| Bears | 3-1-0 | .750 | 66 | 45 |
| Lions | 2-1-1 | .625 | 97 | 95 |
| Vikings | 2-2-0 | .500 | 84 | 63 |

| NFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saints | 3-1-0 | .750 | 84 | 92 |
| Buccaneers | 2-2-0 | .500 | 123 | 117 |
| Panthers | 2-2-0 | .500 | 95 | 80 |
| Falcons | 1-3-0 | .250 | 70 | 99 |

| NFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49ers | 3-0-0 | 1.000 | 96 | 54 |
| Seahawks | 3-1-0 | .750 | 103 | 89 |
| Rams | 2-2-0 | .500 | 117 | 104 |
| Cardinals | 0-3-1 | .125 | 74 | 115 |

▲ **Special Deliveries:** Patrick Mahomes was leading the NFL in passing yards and TD passes while sparking the Chiefs to their third straight 4-0 start.

Rick Osentoski/AP Images

▸ **Rocking Cleveland:** The Browns' Nick Chubb was averaging 5.1 yards per carry and had four rushing TDs through four weeks.

David Richard/AP Images

Rick Osentoski/AP Images

▸ **Mane Man:** Kenny Golladay caught a 31-yard TD in the Lions' Week 2 win over the Chargers.

David Richard/AP Images

▸ **Mike Liking It:** Titans coach Mike Vrabel had his squad in the mix in a tangled AFC South.

## WEEK 1

Prior to their Sunday night contest against the Steelers, the Patriots celebrated their sixth Super Bowl championship with fans at Gillette Stadium. Members of their title teams – Drew Bledsoe, Ty Law, Willie McGinest, Rob Ninkovich, and Martellus Bennett – along with team owner Robert Kraft carried the six Lombardi Trophies onto the field and the Super Bowl LIII banner was unfurled in the stadium's south end zone. Once the game began, New England looked poised to pursue a seventh crown, dismantling Pittsburgh, 33-3, behind Tom Brady's 341 passing yards and three touchdowns. Two of those scoring strikes went to Phillip Dorsett, including a 58-yarder on the Patriots' first possession of the second half. "We were so locked in on the moment," said defensive back Duron Harmon. "We knew that when we had the opportunity to play the Steelers, on opening night, with the banner raising, we were going to do everything possible to prepare the right way."

▸ **Quick Hits:** The NFL's 100th season opened with the league's oldest rivals engaging in a defensive battle. Aaron Rodgers' 8-yard pass to Jimmy Graham accounted for the game's lone TD as the Packers upended the Bears, 10-3, in the 199th meeting between the teams… The Ravens' Lamar Jackson became the youngest player in NFL history (22 years, 9 months, 1 day) to post a perfect passer rating, completing 17 of 20 passes for 324 yards, five TDs, and no interceptions in a 59-10 win over the Dolphins… Buffalo rallied from a 16-point deficit to edge the Jets, 17-16, the decisive points coming on Josh Allen's 38-yard scoring pass to John Brown with three minutes to play… Wil Lutz capped a wild fourth quarter with a 58-yard field goal as time expired, lifting the Saints past the Texans, 30-28.

### NEXT GEN GEM

When the Bears' **Eddy Piñeiro** lined up for his game-winning 53-yard field goal against the Broncos in Week 2, the kick had just a **53%** "make probability" based on the distance and weather conditions in Denver. He split the uprights to give Chicago a 16-14 victory.

## WEEK 2

Last-minute drama in Denver culminated with the Bears' 16-14 victory over the Broncos. Eddy Piñeiro won it for Chicago, hitting a 53-yard field goal as time expired, moments after the Broncos had moved ahead with a TD and two-point conversion. "Well, that was a crazy one," Bears coach Matt Nagy said. "Absolutely crazy. Just a whirlwind of emotions going back and forth." Leading 13-6 in the closing minutes, Chicago fended off one Denver threat when cornerback Kyle Fuller snared a goal-line interception, but the hosts took possession again and reached paydirt on a 7-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco to Emmanuel Sanders with 31 seconds to go. Subsequent penalties – the first on Denver, the second on Chicago – turned the Broncos from attempting a two-point conversion to kicking a PAT and then back again, with Flacco finding Sanders in the end zone to give his team a one-point lead. But Bears QB Mitchell Trubisky had just enough time to engineer a drive of his own, and his 25-yard pass to Allen Robinson put the ball at the Broncos 35-yard line with one second remaining, setting up Piñeiro's third field goal of the game. "I knew deep down in my heart that it was going in," said Bears defensive end Khalil Mack, who had a sack in the win. "You put that pressure on that guy, Eddy P.… He came out and nailed it."

# FIRST QUARTER

**Engram's Angle:** Giants tight end Evan Engram had four TDs among his 27 receptions.

Jeff Haynes/AP Images

**Going Forth:** In the Bills' Week 4 game vs. New England, Frank Gore became just the fourth NFL player to reach 15,000 career rushing yards.

Adrian Kraus/AP Images

**Quick Hits:** Julio Jones caught a short fourth-down pass from Matt Ryan and turned it into a 54-yard game-winning TD with 2:10 to play as the Falcons edged the Eagles, 24-20… Green Bay scored touchdowns on its first three possessions – thanks to a pair of Aaron Rodgers TD passes and an Aaron Jones 2-yard run – then held off division rival Minnesota to take a 21-16 decision… Russell Wilson reached 200 career touchdown passes as part of a 300-yard, 3-TD performance in the Seahawks' 28-26 win at Pittsburgh… With their 43-0 shutout of the Dolphins, the Patriots became the first team since the 1981 Bills to allow three points or fewer through their first two games of a season.

## WEEK 3

Two young quarterbacks and another drawing just his second start since 2015 produced impressive road wins for their teams. In his first career start, Giants rookie Daniel Jones threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns and also rushed for a pair of scores, the second of those a 7-yard run that provided the go-ahead points in a 32-31 win at Tampa Bay. "He plays with so much poise. You really can't tell he's a rookie," said receiver Sterling Shepard, who caught one of Jones' scoring passes. Carolina's Kyle Allen, starting for just the second time in his career, threw for 261 yards and four TDs in a 38-20 triumph at Arizona. "He's a guy who really keeps his composure," noted Panthers coach Ron Rivera. "He understands. He's smart. He's got a good football mind." Saints QB Teddy Bridgewater had started just once since the 2015 playoffs, but was sharp in navigating a 33-27 victory at Seattle. He completed 19 of 27 passes for 177 yards, which included TD throws to Alvin Kamara and Michael Thomas. "I said all week Teddy is a leader," praised Kamara, who caught nine passes. "He had poise and we got it done."

### NEXT GEN GEM

Titans quarterback **Marcus Mariota** diffused the Falcons' blitz in Week 4. He completed 8 of 13 passes for 116 yards and three touchdowns when Atlanta sent 5+ pass rushers, one of the keys to Tennessee's 24-10 win.

> **"IT'S A GOOD START. THERE'S A LOT OF FOOTBALL LEFT. THREE WINS WON'T GET YOU ANYTHING IN THIS LEAGUE."**
>
> **– 49ERS QB JIMMY GAROPPOLO, ON HIS TEAM'S 3-0 START**

**Quick Hits:** Dalvin Cook rushed for 110 yards, including a second-quarter touchdown, and added four receptions in the Vikings' 34-14 win over Oakland… Gardner Minshew fired a pair of first-quarter TD passes and Calais Campbell recorded three of the Jaguars' nine sacks in a 20-7 victory over Tennessee… A 5-yard Jimmy Garoppolo-to-Dante Pettis TD pass with 1:15 to play lifted the 49ers to their third straight win, 24-20 over the Steelers… The Colts' Jacoby Brissett completed his first 16 passes and finished 28 of 37 for 310 yards and two TDs in helping Indianapolis fight off the Falcons, 27-24 … Dallas improved to 3-0, defeating the Dolphins, 31-6, as Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Amari Cooper and ran for another score… With Deshaun Watson throwing for 351 yards and three touchdowns, two of those to tight end Jordan Akins, the Texans overcame a 10-point deficit to beat the Chargers, 27-20… Jamal Agnew returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown and Marvin Jones had a 12-yard scoring grab among his six receptions as the Lions stayed unbeaten with a 27-24 win at Philadelphia.

## WEEK 4

Tampa Bay came up with clutch plays and set a franchise record for points scored in knocking the Rams from the ranks of the unbeaten, 55-40.

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## SCORES & AWARDS

### WEEK 1 / SEPTEMBER 5-9

Packers 10, BEARS 3
EAGLES 32, Redskins 27
Bills 17, JETS 16
VIKINGS 28, Falcons 12
Ravens 59, DOLPHINS 10
Chiefs 40, JAGUARS 26
Titans 43, BROWNS 13
Rams 30, PANTHERS 27
SEAHAWKS 21, Bengals 20
CHARGERS 30, Colts 24 (OT)
49ers 31, BUCCANEERS 17
COWBOYS 35, Giants 17
CARDINALS 27, Lions 27 (OT)
PATRIOTS 33, Steelers 3
SAINTS 30, Texans 28
RAIDERS 24, Broncos 16

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Lamar Jackson, QB, Ravens
**AFC Defense**
Cameron Wake, LB, Titans
**AFC Special Teams**
Ty Long, P, Chargers
**NFC Offense**
Dak Prescott, QB, Cowboys
**NFC Defense**
Anthony Harris, S, Vikings
**NFC Special Teams**
Wil Lutz, K, Saints
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

### WEEK 2 / SEPTEMBER 12-16

Buccaneers 20, PANTHERS 14
Cowboys 31, REDSKINS 21
Colts 19, TITANS 17
Seahawks 28, STEELERS 26
Bills 28, GIANTS 14
Patriots 43, DOLPHINS 0
TEXANS 13, Jaguars 12
PACKERS 21, Vikings 16
LIONS 13, Chargers 10
49ers 41, BENGALS 17
RAVENS 23, Cardinals 17
Chiefs 28, RAIDERS 10
RAMS 27, Saints 9
Bears 16, BRONCOS 14
FALCONS 24, Eagles 20
Browns 23, JETS 3

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Patrick Mahomes, QB, Chiefs
**AFC Defense**
Whitney Mercilus, LB, Texans
**AFC Special Teams**
Jamie Gillan, P, Browns
**NFC Offense**
Russell Wilson, QB, Seahawks
**NFC Defense**
Shaquil Barrett, LB, Buccaneers
**NFC Special Teams**
Eddy Piñeiro, K, Bears
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Chase Winovich, DE, Patriots

### WEEK 3 / SEPTEMBER 19-23

JAGUARS 20, Titans 7
BILLS 21, Bengals 17
COWBOYS 31, Dolphins 6
PACKERS 27, Broncos 16
COLTS 27, Falcons 24
CHIEFS 33, Ravens 28
VIKINGS 34, Raiders 14
PATRIOTS 30, Jets 14
Lions 27, EAGLES 24
Panthers 38, CARDINALS 20
Giants 32, BUCCANEERS 31
Texans 27, CHARGERS 20
Saints 33, SEAHAWKS 27
49ERS 24, Steelers 20
Rams 20, BROWNS 13
Bears 31, REDSKINS 15

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Deshaun Watson, QB, Texans
**AFC Defense**
Calais Campbell, DL, Jaguars
**AFC Special Teams**
Jake Bailey, P, Patriots
**NFC Offense**
Daniel Jones, QB, Giants
**NFC Defense**
Preston Smith, LB, Packers
**NFC Special Teams**
Thomas Morstead, P, Saints
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

### WEEK 4 / SEPTEMBER 26-30

Eagles 34, PACKERS 27
Titans 24, FALCONS 10
Browns 40, RAVENS 25
Patriots 16, BILLS 10
Chiefs 34, LIONS 30
Panthers 16, TEXANS 10
Raiders 31, COLTS 24
Chargers 30, DOLPHINS 10
GIANTS 24, Redskins 3
Seahawks 27, CARDINALS 10
Buccaneers 55, RAMS 40
BEARS 16, Vikings 6
Jaguars 26, BRONCOS 24
SAINTS 12, Cowboys 10
STEELERS 27, Bengals 3

***Byes:*** *49ers, Jets*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Nick Chubb, RB, Browns
**AFC Defense**
Kyle Van Noy, LB, Patriots
**AFC Special Teams**
Josh Lambo, K, Jaguars
**NFC Offense**
Jameis Winston, QB, Buccaneers
**NFC Defense**
Janoris Jenkins, CB, Giants
**NFC Special Teams**
Joey Slye, K, Panthers
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

▸ **Big For The Bucs:** Jameis Winston guided Tampa Bay's Week 4 win over the defending NFC champion Rams.

Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP Images

QB Jameis Winston threw for 385 yards and four TDs, two of those to Chris Godwin, the second of which spotted the visiting Bucs a 21-0 second-quarter lead. A high-octane fourth quarter produced 44 points between the teams, including a 67-yard Winston-to-Mike Evans touchdown pass that put Tampa ahead by 18 points. The Rams would rally, however, and had an opportunity to tie the game late until Bucs linebacker Shaquil Barrett forced a fumble that Ndamukong Suh recovered and brought back 37 yards for the game-clinching touchdown with 1:06 remaining. Rams QB Jared Goff threw for 517 yards, tied for the eighth-most in an NFL game, but he was also picked off three times – by Barrett, LaVonte David, and Jordan Whitehead. "Victories like these galvanize a team, and this team is starting to believe and see what they can be," Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Patriots defensive back J.C. Jackson became the first player in 30 seasons with at least two interceptions and a blocked punt in the same game, the effort coming as part of New England's 16-10 win at Buffalo. In that same game, the Bills' Frank Gore rushed for 109 yards and became just the fourth player in NFL history with 15,000 career rushing yards… Nick Chubb rushed for 165 yards and three touchdowns, one of those on an 88-yard run, as the Browns raced past the Ravens, 40-25 … Carson Wentz threw for three TDs and the Eagles' defense stopped the Packers twice inside the 5-yard line in the closing minutes to preserve a 34-27 win at Green Bay… In the Steelers' 27-3 victory over Cincinnati, running back Jaylen Samuels became the second player since 1970 to complete three passes and have three rushing attempts and three receptions in the same game. He went 3-of-3 passing for 31 yards, ran for 26 yards (including a 2-yard TD), and caught eight passes… Derek Carr threw a pair of TD passes and Eric Harris brought back an interception 30 yards for a score as the Raiders clipped the Colts, 31-24.

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# SAN FRANCISCO STANDS TALL

## Impressive efforts propel 49ers to best start in nearly 30 years.

Powered by a dominant defense and an offense finding its stride, the 49ers were in charge of the NFC West race as the 2019 season approached its midpoint.

They improved to 7-0 with a dominant 51-13 decision over the Panthers in Week 8, snapping Carolina's four-game winning streak in the process. Tevin Coleman scored four touchdowns – one of those on a 48-yard run – and Emmanuel Sanders caught a 4-yard TD to help propel the 49ers to their highest point total in 26 years. On defense, rookie Nick Bosa had three of the team's seven sacks and one of its three interceptions.

"It was pretty damn impressive," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said of Bosa's performance. "I'm sure when I watch the tape, it'll look even better."

The entire defense was impressive in Week 7, when San Francisco shut out the Redskins, 9-0, to become the first team since the 2005 Patriots to allow seven or fewer points and 200 or fewer offensive yards in three consecutive games.

That result followed a statement win over division foe and the defending NFC champion Rams. After allowing a touchdown on Los Angeles' first possession, the 49ers blanked L.A.'s explosive offense the rest of the way as it took a 20-7 decision. Jimmy Garoppolo completed 24 of 33 passes for 243 yards – his favorite target was tight end George Kittle, who had eight receptions for 103 yards – and the QB put his team ahead for good with a 1-yard run in the third quarter.

## NFL Standings Through WEEK 8

| AFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patriots | 8-0-0 | 1.000 | 250 | 61 |
| Bills | 5-2-0 | .714 | 134 | 122 |
| Jets | 1-6-0 | .143 | 78 | 185 |
| Dolphins | 0-7-0 | .000 | 77 | 238 |

| AFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ravens | 5-2-0 | .714 | 214 | 156 |
| Steelers | 3-4-0 | .429 | 150 | 145 |
| Browns | 2-5-0 | .286 | 133 | 181 |
| Bengals | 0-8-0 | .000 | 124 | 210 |

| AFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colts | 5-2-0 | .714 | 158 | 151 |
| Texans | 5-3-0 | .625 | 212 | 188 |
| Jaguars | 4-4-0 | .500 | 173 | 163 |
| Titans | 4-4-0 | .500 | 148 | 135 |

| AFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chiefs | 5-3-0 | .625 | 226 | 181 |
| Raiders | 3-4-0 | .429 | 151 | 192 |
| Chargers | 3-5-0 | .375 | 157 | 157 |
| Broncos | 2-6-0 | .250 | 125 | 151 |

| NFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cowboys | 4-3-0 | .571 | 190 | 124 |
| Eagles | 4-4-0 | .500 | 202 | 199 |
| Giants | 2-6-0 | .250 | 158 | 218 |
| Redskins | 1-7-0 | .125 | 99 | 195 |

| NFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Packers | 7-1-0 | .875 | 215 | 163 |
| Vikings | 6-2-0 | .750 | 211 | 132 |
| Lions | 3-3-1 | .500 | 180 | 186 |
| Bears | 3-4-0 | .429 | 128 | 122 |

| NFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saints | 7-1-0 | .875 | 195 | 156 |
| Panthers | 4-3-0 | .571 | 179 | 184 |
| Buccaneers | 2-5-0 | .286 | 196 | 212 |
| Falcons | 1-7-0 | .125 | 165 | 250 |

| NFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49ers | 7-0-0 | 1.000 | 207 | 77 |
| Seahawks | 6-2-0 | .750 | 208 | 196 |
| Rams | 5-3-0 | .625 | 214 | 174 |
| Cardinals | 3-4-1 | .438 | 170 | 223 |

▶ **He's the Boss:** Backed by the play of defensive lineman Nick Bosa, the 49ers fashioned one of the NFL's top defenses during the season.

John Cordes/AP Images

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**Winning Recipe:** Through eight weeks, Dalvin Cook's 823 rushing yards and nine rushing TDs both led th NFL.

Adam Hunger/AP Images

**On the March:** Coach Sean Payton had the Saints taking a path to a third straight NFC South title.

Phelan M. Ebenhack/AP Images

**Big Mack:** Spurred on by Marlon Mack's 132 rushing yards, the Colts beat the Chiefs in Week 5.

Bill Jung/AP Images

"[The Rams have] gotten after us a lot the last couple of years, so it was a game for us to come out here and just show that we are back and for real," said 49ers defensive lineman Solomon Thomas, who had one of his team's four sacks.

A 31-3 victory over Cleveland in Week 5 also contributed to the 49ers' perfect record as they stayed ahead of Seattle (6-2), the Rams (5-3), and Arizona (3-4-1) in the highly competitive NFC West. San Francisco was enjoying its best start since the 1990 team stormed out of the gate with 10 straight wins on its way to reaching the NFC Championship Game.

## NEXT GEN GEM

In the Saints' 31-24 Week 5 win over Tampa Bay, receiver **Michael Thomas caught all nine of his targets** when lined up in press coverage. No player had caught more such passes without an incompletion in a game since those throws were first tracked in 2016.

### WEEK 5

The Colts made the big plays when it counted most to pull out a 19-13 victory at Kansas City, dealing the Chiefs their first setback of the season. Jacoby Brissett threw for 151 yards and rushed for Indianapolis' lone touchdown, a 1-yard run in the first quarter, Marlon Mack pounded out 132 rushing yards, and Adam Vinatieri kicked four field goals, the last of those a 29-yarder with 2:27 remaining that provided a late cushion. The Chiefs scored their first two times with the ball, but Indy would then blank them until the final minutes to become the first team in 23 regular-season games to hold Kansas City below 26 points. The Colts also recorded four sacks, allowed just 36 rushing yards, and stuffed a late fourth-and-one play that preceded Vinatieri's final field goal.

"The one emotion we were not feeling is shock. I can't even explain it," Colts coach Frank Reich said afterwards. "There was just an air of confidence and belief that we would do what we did today."

**Quick Hits:** Deshaun Watson (28 of 33, 426 yards, 5 TDs) made history in the Texans' 53-32 win over Atlanta, becoming the first NFL player to throw for at least 400 yards and five touchdowns with five-or-fewer incompletions in a game. His top target was Will Fuller, who had 14 catches for 217 yards and three TDs… Josh Jacobs rushed for 123 yards and two scores to lead the Raiders past Chicago, 24-21, in the first-ever NFL game played in London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium… Kyler Murray completed a 24-yard pass to David Johnson and gained another 24 yards on a QB run, setting up Zane Gonzalez's 31-yard field goal on the game's final play to give the Cardinals a 26-23 victory at Cincinnati.

### WEEK 6

Overcoming a rocky start, the Seahawks rallied for a 32-28 win over Cleveland to remain unbeaten on the road. Russell Wilson accounted for three touchdowns – with a pair of throws to Jaron Brown and running 16 yards for another TD – and Chris Carson's 1-yard scoring run with 3:30 to play provided the decisive points. "If we want to be a championship team, we have to win these types of games," said Wilson, who completed 23 of 33 passes for 299 yards. After yielding touchdowns on each of the Browns' first three possessions and trailing, 20-6, the Seattle defense tightened up, eventually

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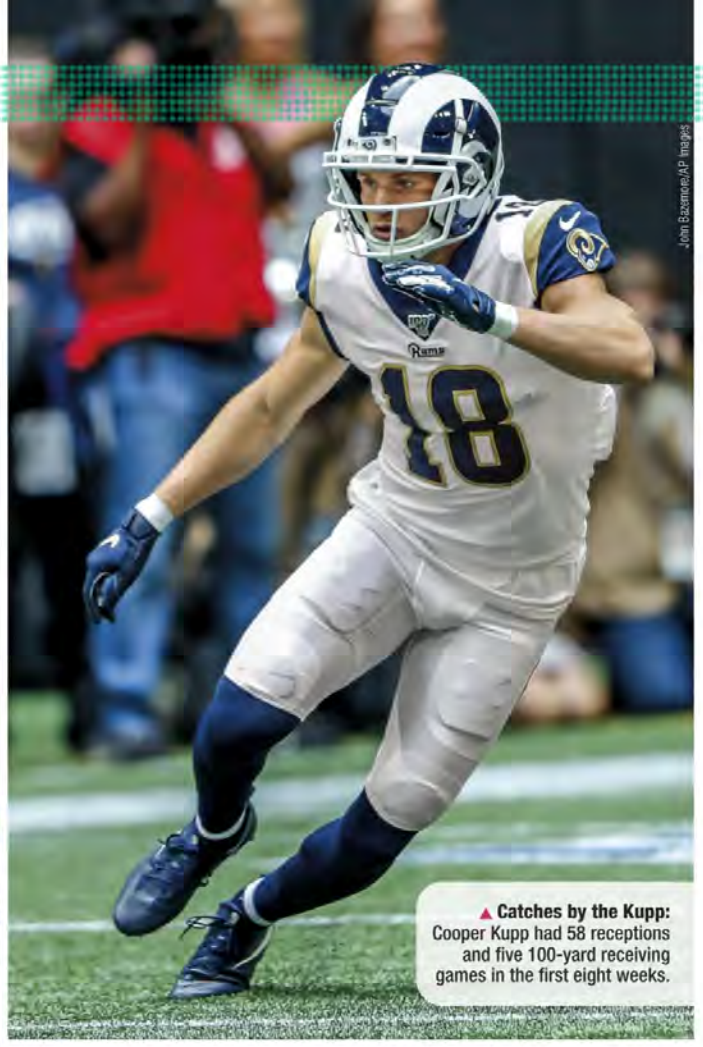
▸ **Lamar on the Loose:** Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson emerged as one of the NFL's most dangerous dual threats.



John Bazemore/AP Images

▲ **Catches by the Kupp:** Cooper Kupp had 58 receptions and five 100-yard receiving games in the first eight weeks.

Adam Hunger/AP Images

▲ **Pick-ture Perfect:** Stephon Gilmore had three interceptions for the 8-0 Patriots.

forcing four turnovers, including an interception by K.J. Wright with 2:41 to play that clinched the victory. "We kept believing something great was going to happen and, sure enough, it did," Wilson said. "In the fourth quarter, we found a way again."

▸ **Quick Hits:** In their 37-26 victory over Tampa Bay in London, the Panthers became the first team in 21 seasons to record seven sacks and five interceptions in a game. Cornerback James Bradberry had two of those pickoffs and chipped in with 11 tackles and four passes defensed… Stefon Diggs caught TD passes of 62, 51, and 11 yards, sparking the Vikings' 38-20 win over Philadelphia… Teddy Bridgewater's 4-yard pass to Jared Cook early in the fourth quarter accounted for the lone touchdown in the Saints' 13-6 victory over Jacksonville, the team's fourth straight win… The Patriots forced four turnovers, one of those a 22-yard fumble-return TD by Kyle Van Noy, to improve to 6-0 with a 35-14 win over the Giants.

## NEXT GEN GEM

Patriots cornerback **Stephon Gilmore** had back-to-back games – Week 6 vs. the Giants and Week 7 vs. the Jets – with a **0.0 passer rating** when targeted as the nearest defender. In the two contests, he allowed two catches for 19 yards and had two interceptions.

### WEEK 7

Behind Lamar Jackson's standout afternoon, the Ravens pulled away from the Seahawks, 30-16, for their third straight win. Jackson threw for 143 yards and rushed for another 116, joining Cam Newton as the only quarterbacks in NFL history with at least 500 rushing yards in each of their first two seasons. Among his runs was an 8-yard TD on fourth down that put Baltimore ahead for good late in the third quarter. "I was tired of not scoring," said Jackson, who saw the Ravens' first 13 points come on a pair of Justin Tucker field goals and Marcus Peters' 67-yard interception-return touchdown. "[The touchdown] gave our whole team confidence – even the coaches were pumped up." The Ravens' defense then forced a punt, and Jackson went right back to work, leading a 13-play drive that took nine minutes off the clock and led to a 22-yard Tucker field goal.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Aaron Rodgers threw five touchdown passes, including the 350th of his career, to reach that milestone faster (172 games) than any player in NFL history, as the Packers rolled past Oakland, 42-24… Kirk Cousins sparked the Vikings' third straight victory, a 42-30 decision at Detroit, by throwing for 338 yards and four TDs… Chandler Jones had a career-high four sacks and added a forced fumble and a fumble recovery in the Cardinals' 27-21 win over the Giants… Tre'Davious White grabbed a red zone interception and later forced a fumble, helping the Bills rally with 22 fourth-quarter points to defeat the Dolphins 31-21.

## SCORES & AWARDS

### WEEK 5 / OCTOBER 3-7

SEAHAWKS 30, Rams 29
PANTHERS 34, Jaguars 27
Cardinals 26, BENGALS 23
TEXANS 53, Falcons 32
SAINTS 31, Buccaneers 24
Vikings 28, GIANTS 10
RAIDERS 24, Bears 21 (London)
EAGLES 31, Jets 6
Ravens 26, STEELERS 23 (OT)
Bills 14, TITANS 7
Patriots 33, REDSKINS 7
Broncos 20, CHARGERS 13
Packers 34, COWBOYS 24
Colts 19, CHIEFS 13
49ERS 31, Browns 3

***Byes:*** *Dolphins, Lions*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Deshaun Watson, QB, Texans
**AFC Defense**
Justin Houston, DE, Colts
**AFC Special Teams**
Justin Tucker, K, Ravens
**NFC Offense**
Aaron Jones, RB, Packers
**NFC Defense**
Nick Bosa, DL, 49ers
**NFC Special Teams**
Dan Bailey, K, Vikings
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

### WEEK 6 / OCTOBER 10-14

PATRIOTS 35, Giants 14
Panthers 37, BUCCANEERS 26 (London)
RAVENS 23, Bengals 17
Seahawks 32, BROWNS 28
Saints 13, JAGUARS 6
Texans 31, CHIEFS 24
Redskins 17, DOLPHINS 16
VIKINGS 38, Eagles 20
CARDINALS 34, Falcons 33
49ers 20, RAMS 7
BRONCOS 16, Titans 0
JETS 24, Cowboys 22
Steelers 24, CHARGERS 17
PACKERS 23, Lions 22

***Byes:*** *Bears, Bills, Colts, Raiders*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Sam Darnold, QB, Jets
**AFC Defense**
Devin Bush, LB, Steelers
**AFC Special Teams**
Justin Tucker, K, Ravens
**NFC Offense**
Kyler Murray, QB, Cardinals
**NFC Defense**
Landon Collins, S, Redskins
**NFC Special Teams**
Thomas Morstead, P, Saints
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Kyler Murray, QB, Cardinals

### WEEK 7 / OCTOBER 17-21

Chiefs 30, BRONCOS 6
RAMS 37, Falcons 10
BILLS 31, Dolphins 21
Jaguars 27, BENGALS 17
Vikings 42, LIONS 30
PACKERS 42, Raiders 24
COLTS 30, Texans 23
Cardinals 27, GIANTS 21
49ers 9, REDSKINS 0
TITANS 23, Chargers 20
Saints 36, BEARS 25
Ravens 30, SEAHAWKS 16
COWBOYS 37, Eagles 10
Patriots 33, JETS 0

***Byes:*** *Browns, Buccaneers, Panthers, Steelers*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Jacoby Brissett, QB, Colts
**AFC Defense**
Tre'Davious White, CB, Bills
**AFC Special Teams**
Josh Lambo, K, Jaguars
**NFC Offense**
Aaron Rodgers, QB, Packers
**NFC Defense**
Chandler Jones, LB, Cardinals
**NFC Special Teams**
Brett Maher, K, Cowboys
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

### WEEK 8 / OCTOBER 24-28

VIKINGS 19, Redskins 9
Seahawks 27, FALCONS 20
Eagles 31, BILLS 13
Chargers 17, BEARS 16
LIONS 31, Giants 26
COLTS 15, Broncos 13
JAGUARS 29, Jets 15
RAMS 24, Bengals 10 (London)
SAINTS 31, Cardinals 9
TITANS 27, Buccaneers 23
49ERS 51, Panthers 13
TEXANS 27, Raiders 24
PATRIOTS 27, Browns 13
Packers 31, CHIEFS 24
STEELERS 27, Dolphins 14

***Byes:*** *Cowboys, Ravens*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
James Conner, RB, Steelers
**AFC Defense**
Joey Bosa, DE, Chargers
**AFC Special Teams**
Adam Vinatieri, K, Colts
**NFC Offense**
Aaron Jones, RB, Packers
**NFC Defense**
Nick Bosa, DL, 49ers
**NFC Special Teams**
Dan Bailey, K, Vikings
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

Ed Zurga/AP Images

▸ **Rodgers That:** With Aaron Rodgers directing the aerial traffic, the Packers led the NFC North.

**"A LOT OF TIMES THAT BALL LEAVES HIS HAND, I'M ALWAYS LIKE IN AWE. SO, YEAH, HE'S PRETTY GOOD."**

**— PACKERS COACH MATT LaFLEUR, WHEN ASKED ABOUT QB AARON RODGERS**

### WEEK 8

Bill Belichick earned his 300th career coaching victory and the Patriots improved to a league-best 8-0 by beating the Browns, 27-13. "Fortunately I didn't play in any of those games," said Belichick, who inched closer to all-time wins leaders Don Shula (347) and George Halas (324). "I was a part of those, but, honestly, players win games in this league, and I've been fortunate to coach a lot of great ones." New England's defense forced turnovers on three straight Cleveland offensive plays in the opening quarter, one of those resulting in a 26-yard fumble-return TD by Dont'a Hightower, to build a quick 17-0 lead. New England's +186 point differential equaled the third-best through eight games in NFL history.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Gardner Minshew threw for 279 yards and three TDs in leading the Jaguars to a 29-15 win over the Jets… The Rams' Cooper Kupp had seven receptions for a career-high 220 yards and a touchdown in his team's 24-10 victory over Cincinnati at Wembley Stadium in London… Jordan Howard rushed for 96 yards and Miles Sanders dashed 65 yards for a third-quarter touchdown that sparked the Eagles' 31-13 win at Buffalo… Adam Vinatieri's third field goal of the game, a 51-yarder with 22 seconds remaining in regulation, lifted the Colts over the Broncos, 15-13.

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# RAVENS RISE IN AFC NORTH

## Victories over both Super Bowl LIII participants highlight Baltimore's surge.

Driven by a seven-game winning streak that featured impressive primetime performances against the Patriots and the Rams, the Ravens served notice that they were an emerging threat in the AFC.

"We're clicking on all cylinders right now," said quarterback Lamar Jackson, who became the first player in NFL history to accumulate 3,000 passing yards and 1,500 rushing yards in his first two seasons. "It's OK, but we're trying to win the Super Bowl. We're chasing that right now, and that's what we're focused on."

Baltimore handed New England its first defeat of the season, 37-20, in Week 9, as Jackson threw for one touchdown and ran for two others, and Marlon Humphrey brought back a third-quarter fumble 70 yards for a score that defused the Patriots' momentum.

That was followed by a 49-13 win over Cincinnati, a game highlighted by two defensive touchdowns: Marcus Peters' 89-yard interception return in the second quarter and Tyus Bowser's 33-yard fumble return that closed out the scoring.

The Ravens then rushed for 263 yards in a 41-7 win over Houston, becoming the first team since the 1978 Patriots to amass more than 2,000 rushing yards in a season's first 10 games.

Still, Jackson may have been at his best in Week 12, directing TD drives on Baltimore's first six possessions and ending the night with five

### NFL Standings Through WEEK 12

| AFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patriots | 10-1-0 | .909 | 300 | 117 |
| Bills | 8-3-0 | .727 | 241 | 173 |
| Jets | 4-7-0 | .364 | 198 | 258 |
| Dolphins | 2-9-0 | .182 | 163 | 346 |

| AFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ravens | 9-2-0 | .818 | 386 | 202 |
| Steelers | 6-5-0 | .545 | 216 | 212 |
| Browns | 5-6-0 | .455 | 233 | 252 |
| Bengals | 0-11-0 | .000 | 157 | 292 |

| AFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texans | 7-4-0 | .636 | 265 | 249 |
| Colts | 6-5-0 | .545 | 244 | 226 |
| Titans | 6-5-0 | .545 | 245 | 217 |
| Jaguars | 4-7-0 | .364 | 209 | 264 |

| AFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chiefs | 7-4-0 | .636 | 308 | 256 |
| Raiders | 6-5-0 | .545 | 228 | 284 |
| Chargers | 4-7-0 | .364 | 224 | 218 |
| Broncos | 3-8-0 | .273 | 175 | 217 |

| NFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cowboys | 6-5-0 | .545 | 295 | 210 |
| Eagles | 5-6-0 | .455 | 243 | 247 |
| Giants | 2-9-0 | .182 | 217 | 308 |
| Redskins | 2-9-0 | .182 | 144 | 269 |

| NFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Packers | 8-3-0 | .727 | 258 | 242 |
| Vikings | 8-3-0 | .727 | 289 | 205 |
| Bears | 5-6-0 | .455 | 188 | 198 |
| Lions | 3-7-1 | .318 | 260 | 291 |

| NFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saints | 9-2-0 | .818 | 272 | 230 |
| Panthers | 5-6-0 | .455 | 259 | 291 |
| Buccaneers | 4-7-0 | .364 | 312 | 335 |
| Falcons | 3-8-0 | .273 | 242 | 297 |

| NFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49ers | 10-1-0 | .909 | 332 | 163 |
| Seahawks | 9-2-0 | .818 | 292 | 263 |
| Rams | 6-5-0 | .545 | 249 | 243 |
| Cardinals | 3-7-1 | .318 | 248 | 314 |

▶ **On the Mark:** With Marcus Peters leading a dynamic defense, Baltimore was setting its sights on the franchise's third Super Bowl appearance.

Jevone Moore/Getty Images

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Picking Up Ground: Josh Jacobs' running pushed the Raiders into contention.

Sam Wenig/AP Images

Deshaun Delivering: QB Deshaun Watson threw for multiple TDs in division wins over Jacksonville and Indy to put the Texans atop the AFC South.

Eric Christian Smith/AP Images

Powered by Pete: Coach Pete Carroll had the Seahawks in the thick of the race for the NFC's best record.

Matt Rourke/AP Images

touchdown passes and 95 rushing yards in a 45-6 triumph over the Rams. Willie Snead and Marquise Brown each had two scoring grabs, and Mark Ingram added 111 yards rushing and twice reached the end zone.

"The fact that we're playing so well from one week to the next is an indication of how hard the guys are working and how focused they are," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh. "But they know next week's a new week. There's no best team in football right now. February's when they make that decision."

## WEEK 9

The NFL's 2019 London Series wrapped up with the Texans rolling past the Jaguars, 26-3, in front of 84,771 fans at Wembley Stadium. Deshaun Watson starred for the victors, throwing for 201 yards and two TDs and rushing for 37 yards, while Houston's defense forced four turnovers. "It's great to play with a quarterback like Deshaun," said receiver DeAndre Hopkins, whose eight receptions included a 1-yard TD grab. "You see what he can do. It was amazing, right?" Watson, meanwhile, noted the electric atmosphere before and during the game. "My experience in Europe, especially playing, it was amazing," he said. "The fans, the energy, the vibes, just everything was awesome."

### NEXT GEN GEM

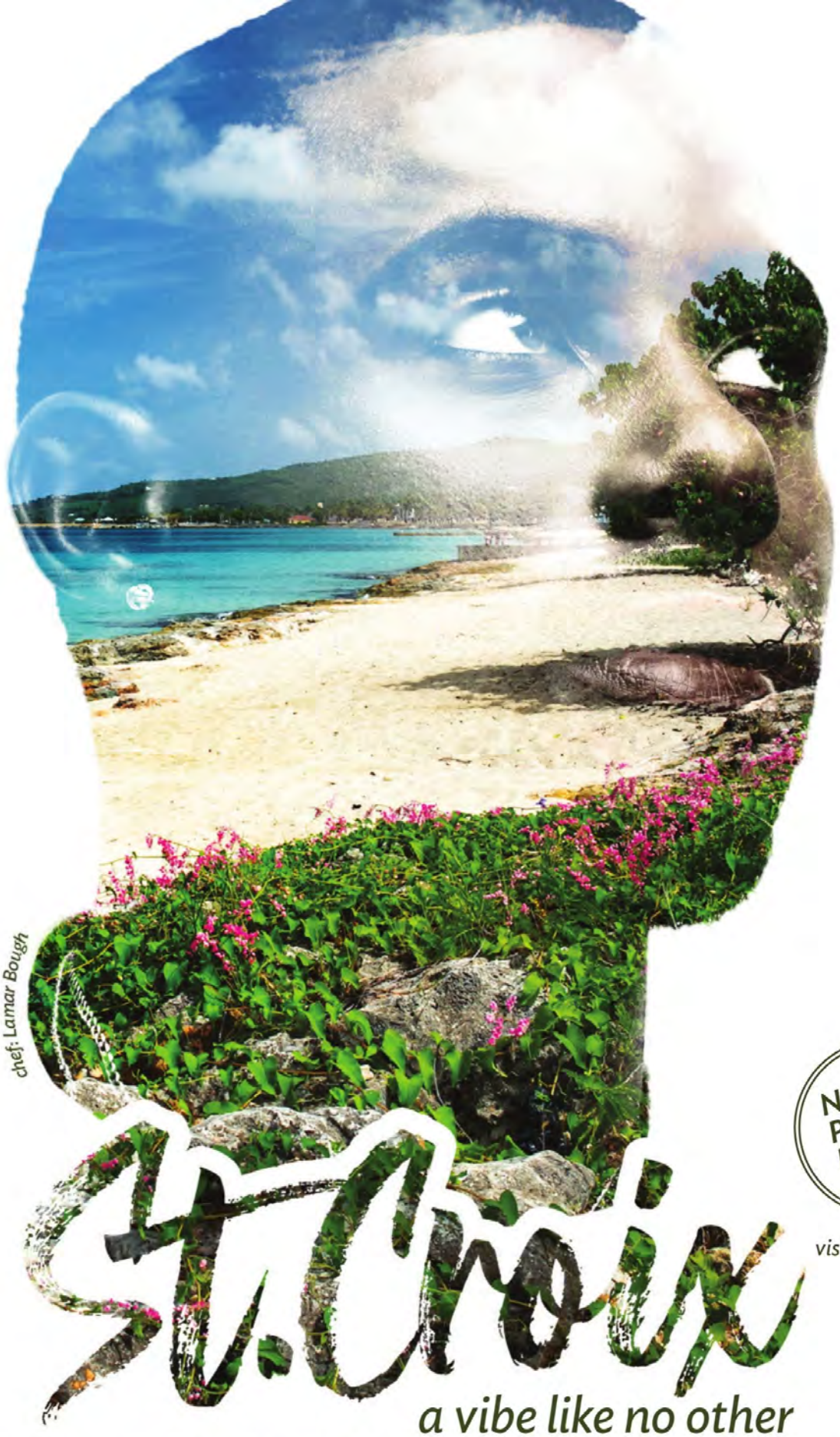
**Jadeveon Clowney** created 10 QB disruptions (hurry, pressure, or sack) in Seattle's 27-24 overtime win over the 49ers in Week 10, double his previous high as a member of the Seahawks.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Dak Prescott threw fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Michael Gallup and Amari Cooper to help the Cowboys pull away from the Giants, 37-18… Josh Jacobs ran for a pair of TDs and Derek Carr threw a 9-yard scoring pass to Hunter Renfrow to snap a late tie as the Raiders edged the Lions, 31-24… Tyreek Hill caught a 40-yard TD pass and Harrison Butker kicked field goals from 54 and 44 yards to rally the Chiefs past Minnesota, 26-23… Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 288 yards and three touchdowns in leading the Dolphins to their first win of the season, 26-18 over the Jets.

## WEEK 10

Erik Harris had two interceptions, one that he brought back 56 yards for a touchdown, and Josh Jacobs scored the go-ahead points on an 18-yard TD run with 1:02 remaining as the Raiders edged the Chargers, 26-24, for their fifth win of the season. "As soon as I saw [the hole], I was just thinking, 'Go!'" Jacobs said of his touchdown. "I knew it would either be a big run or a first down, and luckily it was a big run." Philip Rivers had put the Chargers in front with just over four minutes to play on a 6-yard scoring pass to Austin Ekeler, but Oakland's Derek Carr answered by completing five of seven passes on a 75-yard march that ended with Jacobs' burst up the middle on a third-and-1 play. Karl Joseph then sealed the win with an interception. "That game says a lot about our team," coach Jon Gruden said. "We have a lot of resilient guys. We compete. You may beat us. But we'll be a hard out to get. We'll battle."

▸ **Quick Hits:** Jadeveon Clowney returned a fumble 10 yards for a touchdown and Russell Wilson had an 18-yard run in overtime to set up Jason Myers' 42-yard field goal as Seattle defeated the 49ers, 27-24,

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**Thomas is Tops:** The Saints' Michael Thomas was shattering NFL receiving records on a near weekly basis.

Charles Rex Arbogast/AP Images

**Can You Dig(gs) It?** Stephon Diggs was instrumental in the Vikings' resurgent passing attack that lifted the team into the NFC playoff hunt.

David Eulitt/Getty Images

**Double Trouble:** Christian McCaffrey racked up six 100-yard rushing efforts and caught 10-or-more passes three times in the Panthers' first 11 games.

Jeffrey Phelps/AP Images

**"EIGHT AND THREE? THAT FEELS GOOD TO ME. I AIN'T NEVER BEEN 8-3 IN THE NFL."**

**– BILLS LB SHAQ LAWSON, AFTER HIS TEAM'S WEEK 12 WIN OVER DENVER**

handing San Francisco its first setback of the season after an 8-0 start… Micah Fitzpatrick returned a fumble 43 yards for a touchdown and later added an interception to lift the Steelers to a 17-12 win over the Rams… Ryan Tannehill threw a go-ahead 23-yard TD pass to Adam Humphries with 23 seconds remaining and Joshua Kalu blocked a field goal attempt on the game's final play, allowing the Titans to topple the Chiefs, 35-32… Jets safety Jamal Adams recorded two sacks, had a pair of forced fumbles, and added a 25-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown in the Jets' 34-27 win over the Giants.

## NEXT GEN GEM

Jets QB **Sam Darnold** put up solid numbers throwing on the run in Week 11's 34-17 win over Washington, completing 7 of 12 passes for 133 yards, two TDs, and a 101.7 passer rating.

### WEEK 11

A pair of big comebacks highlighted the weekend for NFC playoff contenders. The Vikings trailed the Broncos, 20-0 at halftime, before rallying for a 27-23 victory, the NFL's largest regular-season comeback in five years. "Suddenly, [the game] just has a different feel to it, and the next thing you know, you're going," said QB Kirk Cousins, who completed 29 of 35 passes for 319 yards and three touchdowns. Cousins threw fourth-quarter scoring strikes to Stefon Diggs and Kyle Rudolph to move Minnesota in front, and the Vikings stopped Denver from the 4-yard line in the closing seconds to preserve the outcome. In San Francisco, Jimmy Garoppolo threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Wilson with 31 seconds remaining, putting the 49ers ahead on their way to a 36-26 win over the Cardinals. "I felt the pressure up the middle and I kind of put it out there and wanted [Wilson] to just make a play on it," said Garoppolo, who finished with 425 passing yards and four TDs. "I just heard the crowd. I didn't even see him catch it." The 49ers had trailed, 16-0, in the second quarter before getting on the board with Garoppolo's 4-yard scoring pass to Ross Dwelley.

**Quick Hits:** LeSean McCoy and Darrel Williams each had rushing touchdowns and the Chiefs' defense intercepted four passes, the last one by Daniel Sorensen with 18 seconds to play, to preserve a 24-17 victory over the Chargers at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City… Dak Prescott threw for 444 yards and three TDs to carry the Cowboys to a 35-27 win at Detroit… Michael Thomas caught eight passes for 114 yards and one

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## SCORES & AWARDS

### WEEK 9 / OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 4

49ers 28, CARDINALS 25
Texans 26, JAGUARS 3 (London)
BILLS 24, Redskins 9
PANTHERS 30, Titans 20
CHIEFS 26, Vikings 23
DOLPHINS 26, Jets 18
EAGLES 22, Bears 14
STEELERS 26, Colts 24
RAIDERS 31, Lions 24
SEAHAWKS 40, Buccaneers 34 (OT)
BRONCOS 24, Browns 19
CHARGERS 26, Packers 11
RAVENS 37, Patriots 20
Cowboys 37, GIANTS 18

***Byes:*** *Bengals, Falcons, Rams, Saints*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Lamar Jackson QB, Ravens
**AFC Defense**
Bud Dupree, LB, Steelers
**AFC Special Teams**
Harrison Butker, K, Chiefs
**NFC Offense**
Russell Wilson, QB, Seahawks
**NFC Defense**
Xavier Woods, S, Cowboys
**NFC Special Teams**
Mitch Wishnowsky, P, 49ers
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
DK Metcalf, WR, Seahawks

### WEEK 10 / NOVEMBER 7-11

RAIDERS 26, Chargers 24
BEARS 20, Lions 13
Ravens 49, BENGALS 13
BROWNS 19, Bills 16
PACKERS 24, Panthers 16
Falcons 26, SAINTS 9
JETS 34, Giants 27
BUCCANEERS 30, Cardinals 27
TITANS 35, Chiefs 32
Dolphins 16, COLTS 12
STEELERS 17, Rams 12
Vikings 28, COWBOYS 24
Seahawks 27, 49ERS 24 (OT)

***Byes:*** *Broncos, Eagles, Jaguars, Patriots, Redskins, Texans*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Lamar Jackson, QB, Ravens
**AFC Defense**
Jamal Adams, S, Jets
**AFC Special Teams**
Jason Sanders, K, Dolphins
**NFC Offense**
Dalvin Cook, RB, Vikings
**NFC Defense**
Jadeveon Clowney, DE, Seahawks
**NFC Special Teams**
Younghoe Koo, K, Falcons
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Josh Jacobs, RB, Raiders

### WEEK 11 / NOVEMBER 14-18

BROWNS 21, Steelers 7
RAVENS 41, Texans 7
Falcons 29, PANTHERS 3
Cowboys 35, LIONS 27
COLTS 33, Jaguars 13
Bills 37, DOLPHINS 20
VIKINGS 27, Broncos 23
Saints 34, BUCCANEERS 17
Jets 34, REDSKINS 17
49ERS 36, Cardinals 26
RAIDERS 17, Bengals 10
Patriots 17, EAGLES 10
RAMS 17, Bears 7
Chiefs 24, CHARGERS 17 (Mexico City)

***Byes:*** *Giants, Packers, Seahawks, Titans*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Josh Allen, QB, Bills
**AFC Defense**
Maxx Crosby, DE, Raiders
**AFC Special Teams**
Jake Bailey, P, Patriots
**NFC Offense**
Dak Prescott, QB, Cowboys
**NFC Defense**
Aaron Donald, DT, Rams
**NFC Special Teams**
Kenjon Barner, PR, Falcons
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Maxx Crosby, DE, Raiders

### WEEK 12 / NOVEMBER 21-25

TEXANS 20, Colts 17
Buccaneers 35, FALCONS 22
BILLS 20, Broncos 3
BEARS 19, Giants 14
Steelers 16, BENGALS 10
BROWNS 41, Dolphins 24
SAINTS 34, Panthers 31
JETS 34, Raiders 3
REDSKINS 19, Lions 16
TITANS 42, Jaguars 20
PATRIOTS 13, Cowboys 9
Seahawks 17, EAGLES 9
49ERS 37, Packers 8
Ravens 45, RAMS 6

***Byes:*** *Cardinals, Chargers, Chiefs, Vikings*

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Lamar Jackson, QB, Ravens
**AFC Defense**
Joe Schobert, LB, Browns
**AFC Special Teams**
Matthew Slater, WR, Patriots
**NFC Offense**
Chris Godwin, WR, Buccaneers
**NFC Defense**
Fred Warner, LB, 49ers
**NFC Special Teams**
Steven Sims, KR, Redskins
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
A.J. Brown, WR, Titans

Dustin Bradford/AP Images

**Dynamic Dak:** Through 11 games, Dak Prescott had thrown 21 TDs and just three interceptions for the NFC East-leading Cowboys.

TD – and set an NFL record for receptions in a season's first 10 games (94) – as the Saints beat back a challenge by the Buccaneers, 34-17… Behind Josh Allen's three touchdown passes, Buffalo upended the Dolphins, 37-20, to improve to 7-3, its best 10-game record since 1999.

### WEEK 12

The Patriots set another league record in their 13-9 victory over the Cowboys, becoming the first team to win at least 10 games in 17 consecutive seasons. The game's lone touchdown came in the first quarter, shortly after New England's Matthew Slater blocked a punt, when Tom Brady found rookie N'Keal Harry in the end zone on a 10-yard scoring strike. "[The blocked punt] was probably the difference in the game, really, when you come right down to it," said Patriots coach Bill Belichick. "That enabled us to play from ahead, and that was a good thing." The defense did the rest, keeping Dallas' top-ranked offense out of the end zone for the first time all season and limiting the Cowboys to just two third-down conversions in 13 opportunities. Stephon Gilmore grabbed an interception for New England, his fourth of the season, setting up Nick Folk's 44-yard field goal that gave the team a 10-0 lead.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Frank Gore rushed for 65 yards to move into third place on the NFL's all-time rushing list (15,289 yards) in the Bills' 20-3 win over Denver… Derrick Henry scored on runs of 7 and 74 yards on his way to 159 rushing yards in Tennessee's 42-20 victory over Jacksonville… Cleveland's Joe Schobert became just the fourth linebacker in the Super Bowl era to have multiple interceptions in back-to-back games, keying the Browns' 41-24 win over Miami… Devlin Hodges' 79-yard TD pass to James Washington and Chris Boswell's three field goals carried the Steelers past the Bengals, 16-10… Drew Brees threw for 311 yards and three touchdowns, and Wil Lutz kicked a 33-yard field goal on the game's final play, to lift the Saints over the Panthers, 34-31.

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# SAINTS SCRIPT A SUCCESS STORY

## New Orleans captures NFC South as Brees and Thomas topple records.

As the Saints marched to a third consecutive NFC South title – winning six of their final seven games – they also made a few stops along the way to rewrite the league record book.

QB Drew Brees was at the center of the team's 34-7 victory over the Colts in Week 15, setting NFL marks for career touchdown passes and completion percentage in a game. His record-breaking 540th TD toss, a 5-yarder to Josh Hill early in the third quarter, moved him past Peyton Manning and came during a near-perfect night that saw him complete 29 of 30 passes (96.7 percent).

"It was special, everything about the night," Brees said. "It just makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes, because I never thought I'd have the chance to be a part of something like this."

The following week, in a 38-28 win over Tennessee, Michael Thomas caught 12 passes, including his 145th of the season to top Marvin Harrison's single-season mark. Earlier in the game, Thomas broke the NFL record for most yards receiving in the first four seasons of a career, which had been held by Randy Moss.

Mark Zaleski/AP Images

▶ **On the Record:** Drew Brees added to his list of NFL passing marks while sending the Saints into the playoffs for the third straight season.

## 2019 FINAL NFL Standings

*Division Champion +Wild Card

| AFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patriots* | 12-4-0 | .750 | 420 | 225 |
| Bills+ | 10-6-0 | .625 | 314 | 259 |
| Jets | 7-9-0 | .438 | 276 | 359 |
| Dolphins | 5-11-0 | .313 | 306 | 494 |

| AFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ravens* | 14-2-0 | .875 | 531 | 282 |
| Steelers | 8-8-0 | .500 | 289 | 303 |
| Browns | 6-10-0 | .375 | 335 | 393 |
| Bengals | 2-14-0 | .125 | 279 | 420 |

| AFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texans* | 10-6-0 | .625 | 378 | 385 |
| Titans+ | 9-7-0 | .563 | 402 | 331 |
| Colts | 7-9-0 | .438 | 361 | 373 |
| Jaguars | 6-10-0 | .375 | 300 | 397 |

| AFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chiefs* | 12-4-0 | .750 | 451 | 308 |
| Broncos | 7-9-0 | .438 | 282 | 316 |
| Raiders | 7-9-0 | .438 | 313 | 419 |
| Chargers | 5-11-0 | .313 | 337 | 345 |

| NFC EAST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eagles* | 9-7-0 | .563 | 385 | 354 |
| Cowboys | 8-8-0 | .500 | 434 | 321 |
| Giants | 4-12-0 | .250 | 341 | 451 |
| Redskins | 3-13-0 | .188 | 266 | 435 |

| NFC NORTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Packers* | 13-3-0 | .813 | 376 | 313 |
| Vikings+ | 10-6-0 | .625 | 407 | 303 |
| Bears | 8-8-0 | .500 | 280 | 298 |
| Lions | 3-12-1 | .219 | 341 | 423 |

| NFC SOUTH | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saints* | 13-3-0 | .813 | 458 | 341 |
| Falcons | 7-9-0 | .438 | 381 | 399 |
| Buccaneers | 7-9-0 | .438 | 458 | 449 |
| Panthers | 5-11-0 | .313 | 340 | 470 |

| NFC WEST | W-L-T | PCT | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49ers* | 13-3-0 | .813 | 479 | 310 |
| Seahawks+ | 11-5-0 | .688 | 405 | 398 |
| Rams | 9-7-0 | .563 | 394 | 364 |
| Cardinals | 5-10-1 | .344 | 361 | 442 |

▲ **Shaq on Sacks:** Bucs LB Shaquil Barrett topped the league and set a franchise record with 19.5 sacks in 2019.

Paul Sancya/AP Images

▶ **Taking Flight:** Tight end Zach Ertz sparked the Eagles' late-season surge to win the NFC East.

Margaret Bowles/AP Images

New Orleans closed out the regular season by defeating Carolina, 42-10, to finish 13-3 for the second straight year and earn the NFC's No. 3 seed. The team's offense averaged better than 38 ppg over the final four games.

"We've had a lot of moving parts this season, a lot of guys up and down on gameday, and I just think it goes to show the resiliency of this team and how it's built," linebacker A.J. Klein said. "We can compete no matter who we put on the field."

## NEXT GEN GEM

In the Titans' 42-21 victory at Oakland in Week 15, QB **Ryan Tannehill** threw for **276 yards** on play-action passes, the second-most yards on play-action in a game over the past four seasons.

### WEEK 13

In a huge inter-conference clash, the Ravens slipped past the visiting 49ers, 20-17, for their franchise-record eighth straight win. Baltimore's Lamar Jackson rushed for 101 yards, becoming the first quarterback in league history with four 100-yard rushing games in a season, and directed a fourth-quarter drive that took more than six minutes off the clock and ended with Justin Tucker's 49-yard field goal as time expired. "That golden leg. I got all the faith in him," Jackson said after Tucker kicked the 15th game-winner of his career. "I'm on the sideline praying, but at the same time I know Tucker can do it." San Francisco scored a touchdown on its opening possession, putting Baltimore behind in a game for the first time since Week 7, but Jackson answered by hitting tight end Mark Andrews on a 20-yard TD pass to tie things up and then ran for a touchdown early in the second quarter to put the Ravens ahead, 14-7.

▸ **Quick Hits:** Aaron Rodgers threw for four TDs and posted a 125.4 passer rating while leading the Packers to a 31-13 victory over the Giants… Jason Sanders caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from punter Matt Haack in the Dolphins' 37-31 win over the Eagles, becoming the first kicker with a receiving TD in a game in 43 years… Patrick Mahomes threw his 70th career touchdown pass in Kansas City's 40-9 win over Oakland, reaching that total in just 27 games, faster than any other player in NFL history… Dane Cruikshank blocked a field-goal attempt that Tye Smith returned 63 yards for a touchdown, breaking a fourth-quarter tie and sending the Titans on to a 31-17 victory over the Colts… For the first time since 2004, three rookies – Rams safety Taylor Rapp (31-yard interception return), Chiefs safety Juan Thornhill (46-yard interception return), and Buccaneers linebacker Devin White (14-yard fumble recovery) – scored defensive touchdowns in the same week.

### WEEK 14

Road teams prevailed in three of the league's marquee games of the weekend. Emmanuel Sanders starred in the 49ers' 48-46 win over the Saints, catching seven passes for 157 yards and a touchdown and also throwing a 35-yard TD pass, and Robbie Gould put the deciding points on the board with a 30-yard field goal as time expired. In the Ravens'

▲ **Yard Accumulation:** The Chiefs' Travis Kelce became the first NFL tight end with four straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

Ryan Kang/AP Images

Steven Senne/AP Images

**Wild in Buffalo:** Coach Sean McDermott directed the Bills to an AFC Wild Card berth for the second time in three seasons.

24-17 win over Buffalo, Lamar Jackson threw for three TDs and rushed for 40 yards, becoming just the second quarterback in league history to top 1,000 rushing yards in a season. The victory clinched Baltimore's second consecutive playoff berth. Kansas City secured its fourth straight AFC West title with a 23-16 win over the Patriots, thanks to Mecole Hardman's 48-yard TD catch, Travis Kelce's 4-yard scoring scamper, and Bashaud Breeland's fourth-down pass breakup in the end zone with just over a minute to play. "You want to beat the best. You want to go out and play against the best and give your best effort," said QB Patrick Mahomes, who threw for 283 yards. "It wasn't pretty the whole time. It was just a tough, hard-fought win."

## NEXT GEN GEM

**Tyreek Hill** continued to stretch the field more than any other WR in the league – in the Chiefs' Week 16 win over the Bears, he covered **1,237 total yards** on scrimmage plays (21.7 yards per play).

▸ **Quick Hits:** Denver's Drew Lock became the first rookie QB in the Super Bowl era to throw for at least 300 yards (309) and three touchdowns in his first road start, sparking the Broncos' 38-24 win at Houston… Ryan Tannehill completed 21 of 27 passes for 391 yards and three TDs in the Titans' 42-21 victory at Oakland… Matt Ryan reached the 50,000-yard passing plateau in his 186th career game, the second-fastest of any quarterback in history, as part of a 313-yard, two-TD effort in the Falcons' 40-20 win over Carolina… With three sacks in the Vikings' 20-7 triumph over Detroit, Danielle Hunter (25 years, 40 days old) became the youngest NFL player ever to reach 50 career sacks.

### WEEK 15

Josh Allen's 17-yard TD pass to Tyler Kroft broke a fourth-quarter tie and Jordan Poyer and Levi Wallace grabbed late interceptions, leading the Bills to a 17-10 victory over the Steelers that secured the team's second playoff berth in three years. The win also gave Buffalo its first 10-win season since 1999. "Coach (Sean McDermott) preaches playoff caliber and that's the standard we hold ourselves to," said Allen, who also ran for a touchdown. "The goal is to get yourself into the playoffs to have a shot at the Super Bowl." Devin Singletary added 87 rushing yards for the victors, while Tre'Davious White picked off two Pittsburgh passes. The game also marked the first time since 1927 that three brothers – Pittsburgh's Trey and Terrell Edmunds and Buffalo's Tremaine Edmunds – appeared in the same NFL game.

▸ **Quick Hits:** By defeating the Bengals, 34-13, the Patriots clinched an NFL-record 11th straight playoff berth… Travis Kelce caught 11 passes for 142 yards in the Chiefs' 23-3 win over the Broncos, becoming the first tight end in league history to amass at least 1,000 receiving yards in four consecutive seasons… Behind DeShaun Watson's two TD passes, the Texans edged the Titans, 24-21, to take sole possession of first place in the AFC South… Minnesota's defense forced seven turnovers, one of those a fumble that defensive end Ifeadi Odenigbo returned 56 yards for a touchdown just before halftime, as part of a 39-10 victory over the Chargers… Eli Manning fired a pair of TD passes and Saquon Barkley ran for two scores to lead the Giants past Miami, 36-20.

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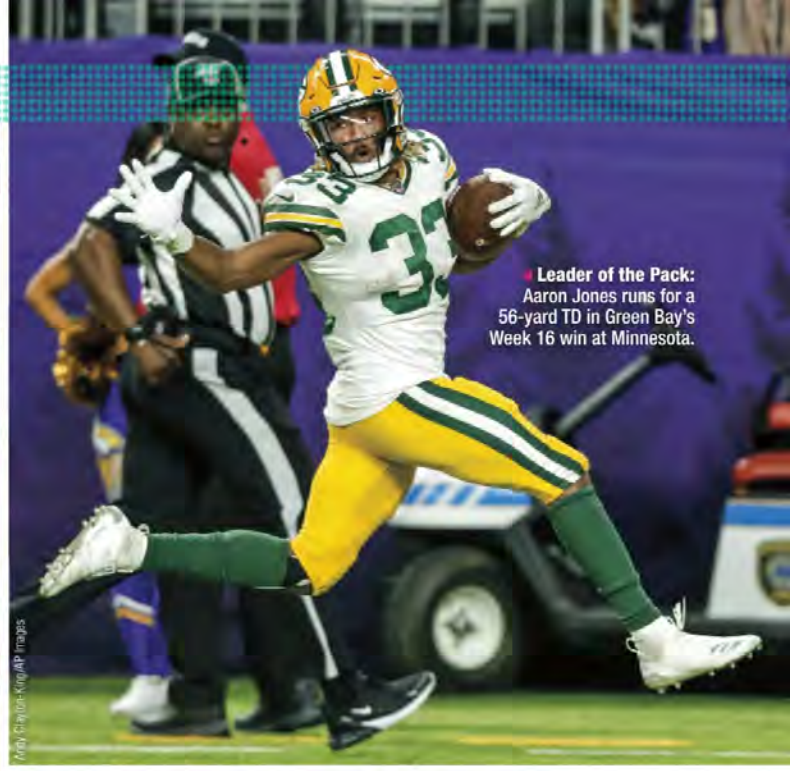
**Mining Gold:** Jimmy Garoppolo keyed the 49ers' drive to the NFC West title and conference's top seed.

Kevin Terrell/AP Images



**Leader of the Pack:** Aaron Jones runs for a 56-yard TD in Green Bay's Week 16 win at Minnesota.

Matty Clayton-King/AP Images

> **"WE CAN'T RELAX BECAUSE IF WE WANT TO BE THE BEST TEAM IN THE NFL, WE HAVE TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL."**
>
> **— RAVENS LB MATTHEW JUDON, AFTER BALTIMORE FINISHED WITH A LEAGUE-BEST 14-2 RECORD**

## WEEK 16

Big divisional matchups took place across the league, including in Philadelphia, where the Eagles toughed out a 17-9 win over Dallas to gain the upper hand in the NFC East. Carson Wentz completed 31 of 40 passes for 319 yards, including a first-quarter touchdown throw to Dallas Goedert that put Philly ahead 10-0. Miles Sanders later scored on a 1-yard run and cornerback Sidney Jones knocked away a fourth-down pass in the end zone with under two minutes to play to end a final Cowboys threat. "Game on the line, you know you got to make a stop and it's time to rise," Jones said. While the Eagles didn't clinch their division, the Patriots did with a 24-17 home victory over Buffalo that wrapped up their 11th consecutive AFC East crown. Rex Burkhead's 1-yard touchdown run with just over five minutes to play put New England ahead to stay, and the Patriots' defense stepped up after the Bills had a first-and-goal from the 8-yard line in the closing moments.

▸ **Quick Hits:** The Ravens defeated Cleveland, 31-15, to sew up the No. 1 seed in the AFC for the first time in franchise history… Nyheim Hines returned punts of 84 and 71 yards for touchdowns as part of the Colts' 38-6 win over the Panthers… The Giants' Daniel Jones made NFL history in his team's 41-35 overtime victory against Washington, becoming the first rookie with at least 300 passing yards (352), five touchdown passes, and no interceptions in a game… In a game that determined the NFC North champion, Aaron Jones rushed for 154 yards and two TDs, Davante Adams caught 13 passes, and Za'darius Smith recorded 3.5 sacks to lead the Packers past the host Vikings, 23-10.

### NEXT GEN GEM

Since the 2016 season, no defensive player has forced more turnovers from pressure (interceptions or fumble recoveries) than the Vikings' **Danielle Hunter**. He has 15 to his name, two more than Khalil Mack and Terrell Suggs over that same period.

## WEEK 17

San Francisco carved out an early lead and then held on in the final seconds to defeat Seattle, 26-21, a victory that not only earned the NFC West crown but also secured the NFC's top seed. Jimmy Garoppolo (18 of 22 passing, 285 yards) helped the 49ers take a 13-0 advantage at the break and Raheem Mostert rushed for two second-half TDs, but the result wasn't secured until linebacker Dre Greenlaw made a fourth-down tackle of Seahawks tight end Jacob Hollister just inches shy of the goal line. "I knew that I had my foot on the goal line. I knew that they had to get into the end zone in order to win the game," Greenlaw said. "So I made sure that my feet were on the goal line and just played lateral to downhill and made a tackle that my coaches and teammates would be proud of."

▸ **Quick Hits:** Mecole Hardman's 104-yard kickoff-return TD keyed the Chiefs' 31-21 win over the Chargers that clinched the AFC's No. 2 seed… Boston Scott rushed for three TDs as the Eagles upended the Giants, 34-17, to win the NFC East… Deion Jones returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown on the first play of overtime, giving Atlanta a 28-22 victory at Tampa Bay… Derrick Henry rushed for 211 yards and three touchdowns as the Titans defeated the Texans, 35-14, to earn an AFC Wild Card berth.

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# SCORES & AWARDS

## WEEK 13 / NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 2

Bears 24, LIONS 20
Bills 26, COWBOYS 15
Saints 26, FALCONS 18
RAVENS 20, 49ers 17
Redskins 29, PANTHERS 21
BENGALS 22, Jets 6
Titans 31, COLTS 17
Buccaneers 28, JAGUARS 11
CHIEFS 40, Raiders 9
DOLPHINS 37, Eagles 31
Packers 31, GIANTS 13
Rams 34, CARDINALS 7
BRONCOS 23, Chargers 20
STEELERS 20, Browns 13
TEXANS 28, Patriots 22
SEAHAWKS 37, Vikings 30

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Deshaun Watson, QB, Texans
**AFC Defense**
Carlos Dunlap, DE, Bengals
**AFC Special Teams**
Jason Sanders, K, Dolphins
**NFC Offense**
Jared Goff, QB, Rams
**NFC Defense**
Cameron Jordan, DE, Saints
**NFC Special Teams**
Tress Way, P, Redskins
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Ed Oliver, DT, Bills

## WEEK 14 / DECEMBER 5-9

BEARS 31, Cowboys 24
FALCONS 40, Panthers 20
Ravens 24, BILLS 17
BROWNS 27, Bengals 19
PACKERS 20, Redskins 15
Broncos 38, TEXANS 24
VIKINGS 20, Lions 7
49ers 48, SAINTS 46
JETS 22, Dolphins 21
BUCCANEERS 38, Colts 35
Chargers 45, JAGUARS 10
Steelers 23, CARDINALS 17
Chiefs 23, PATRIOTS 16
Titans 42, RAIDERS 21
RAMS 28, Seahawks 12
EAGLES 23, Giants 17 (OT)

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Ryan Tannehill, QB, Titans
**AFC Defense**
Kareem Jackson, S, Broncos
**AFC Special Teams**
Diontae Johnson, PR, Steelers
**NFC Offense**
Jimmy Garoppolo, QB, 49ers
**NFC Defense**
Danielle Hunter, DE, Vikings
**NFC Special Teams**
Younghoe Koo, K, Falcons
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Drew Lock, QB, Broncos

## WEEK 15 / DECEMBER 12-16

RAVENS 42, Jets 21
Seahawks 30, PANTHERS 24
Patriots 34, BENGALS 13
Buccaneers 38, LIONS 17
PACKERS 21, Bears 13
CHIEFS 23, Broncos 3
GIANTS 36, Dolphins 20
Texans 24, TITANS 21
Eagles 37, REDSKINS 27
CARDINALS 38, Browns 24
Jaguars 20, RAIDERS 16
COWBOYS 44, Rams 21
Falcons 29, 49ERS 22
Vikings 39, CHARGERS 10
Bills 17, STEELERS 10
SAINTS 34, Colts 7

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Lamar Jackson, QB, Ravens
**AFC Defense**
Tre'Davious White, CB, Bills
**AFC Special Teams**
Angelo Blackson, DE, Texans
**NFC Offense**
Drew Brees, QB, Saints
**NFC Defense**
Patrick Peterson, CB, Cardinals
**NFC Special Teams**
Dan Bailey, K, Vikings
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Dwayne Haskins, QB, Redskins

## WEEK 16 / DECEMBER 21-23

Texans 23, BUCCANEERS 20
PATRIOTS 24, Bills 17
49ERS 34, Rams 31
BRONCOS 27, Lions 17
Raiders 24, CHARGERS 17
FALCONS 24, Jaguars 12
Ravens 31, BROWNS 15
COLTS 38, Panthers 6
DOLPHINS 38, Bengals 35 (OT)
JETS 16, Steelers 10
Saints 38, TITANS 28
Giants 41, REDSKINS 35 (OT)
EAGLES 17, Cowboys 9
Cardinals 27, SEAHAWKS 13
Chiefs 26, BEARS 3
Packers 23, VIKINGS 10

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Ryan Fitzpatrick, QB, Dolphins
**AFC Defense**
Dre'Mont Jones, DE, Broncos
**AFC Special Teams**
Nyheim Hines, PR, Colts
**NFC Offense**
Saquon Barkley, RB, Giants
**NFC Defense**
Chandler Jones, DE, Cardinals
**NFC Special Teams**
Robbie Gould, K, 49ers
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Daniel Jones, QB, Giants

Michael Wyke/AP Images

▲ **Standing Tall:** The Titans' Derrick Henry rushed for an NFL-best 1,540 yards, including 211 in a Week 17 win over Houston.

## WEEK 17 / DECEMBER 29

RAVENS 28, Steelers 10
Jets 13, BILLS 6
Saints 42, PANTHERS 10
BENGALS 33, Browns 23
COWBOYS 47, Redskins 16
Packers 23, LIONS 20
Titans 35, TEXANS 14
JAGUARS 38, Colts 20
CHIEFS 31, Chargers 21
Bears 21, VIKINGS 19
Dolphins 27, PATRIOTS 24
Eagles 34, GIANTS 17
Falcons 28, BUCCANEERS 22 (OT)
BRONCOS 16, Raiders 15
RAMS 31, Cardinals 24
49ers 26, SEAHAWKS 21

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**
**AFC Offense**
Derrick Henry, RB, Titans
**AFC Defense**
Carlos Dunlap, DE, Bengals
**AFC Special Teams**
Mecole Hardman, KR, Chiefs
**NFC Offense**
Boston Scott, RB, Eagles
**NFC Defense**
Deion Jones, LB, Falcons
**NFC Special Teams**
Johnny Hekker, P, Rams
**Pepsi NFL Rookie**
Gardner Minshew, QB, Jaguars

# AFC WILD CARD

## BILLS 19
## TEXANS (OT) 22

### AN ELUSIVE DESHAUN WATSON WAS KEY TO THE TEXANS ESCAPING THE BILLS IN AN OVERTIME THRILLER TO OPEN WILD CARD WEEKEND.

**EVEN AFTER TRAILING 16-0** to visiting Buffalo in the third quarter, there was no panic from the Houston Texans or Deshaun Watson. But there was plenty of magic.

The third-year quarterback inspired a late rally that sent the AFC South champions to a 22-19 overtime victory at NRG Stadium, the Texans' first playoff win in three seasons.

"The game is never over," Watson said after completing 20 of 25 passes for 247 yards and rushing for 55 yards. "Regardless, if we're down 16-0, 7-0, 28-0, I'm going to keep playing. That's just me. I never look at the scoreboard. I just keep fighting."

Watson did it all. He put the Texans on the board with a 20-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter and then threw a fourth-quarter TD pass to Carlos Hyde. He added two-point conversions after each score, running for one and throwing to DeAndre Hopkins for the other. But he saved his best for overtime with a dazzling display of athleticism to avoid a sure sack and complete a 34-yard pass to Taiwan Jones, who spent the previous two seasons with the Bills. Ka'imi Fairbairn's 28-yard field goal on the next play ended it.

Buffalo, seeking its first post-season win since 1995, looked well on its way, thanks to a nifty trick play that saw receiver John Brown throw a 16-yard TD pass to quarterback Josh Allen on the game's opening possession and kicker Steven Hauschka make three field goals. The Bills' defense was doing its part as well. Second in the NFL in both total defense and scoring defense during the regular season, Buffalo allowed just 81 first-half yards.

But that was before Watson, who this year joined Hall of Famer Steve Young as the only QBs in NFL history with multiple seasons of 25+ TD passes and 5+ rushing touchdowns, went to work.

"[Deshaun] made some huge plays," said Texans coach Bill O'Brien, whose team advanced to face AFC West champion Kansas City. "He's got a huge heart. He's been winning his whole life, and he knows how to win."

**NRG STADIUM**
**Houston, Texas** Jan. 4, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| Houston | 0 | 0 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 22 |

**1st Quarter**
**BUF** Allen 16 pass from Brown (Hauschka kick), 3:19

**2nd Quarter**
**BUF** Hauschka 40 FG, 4:13
**BUF** Hauschka 40 FG, 14:56

**3rd Quarter**
**BUF** Hauschka 38 FG, 8:58
**HOU** Watson 20 run (Watson run), 13:27

**4th Quarter**
**HOU** Fairbairn 41 FG, 4:05
**HOU** Hyde 5 pass from Watson (Hopkins pass from Watson), 10:23
**BUF** Hauschka 47 FG, 14:55

**Overtime**
**HOU** Fairbairn 28 FG, 11:40

DeAndre Hopkins

Michael Wyke/AP Images

## TITANS 20
## PATRIOTS 13

### DERRICK HENRY CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY IN A BIG WAY, RUSHING FOR 182 YARDS TO HELP THE TITANS TAKE OUT THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS.

**HENRY'S TOTAL SET A FRANCHISE PLAYOFF RECORD**, but the bigger prize was a 20-13 triumph over the Patriots at a foggy Gillette Stadium.

"We were just locked in," said Henry, the NFL's regular-season rushing leader (1,540 yards) who was turning 26 years old. "That was our mindset, just coming in here doing what we needed to do in all three phases, stay locked in no matter what happens in the game, and I feel like we did that."

Henry picked up 49 of his yards on Tennessee's opening drive, which ended with a 12-yard TD pass from Ryan Tannehill to tight end Anthony Firkser. Henry played an even bigger role on the Titans' second touchdown march, catching a 22-yard pass and rushing for 53 yards, the last of those a 1-yard run that put his team ahead, 14-13, just before halftime.

"When you can run it when the other team knows you're gonna run it, that says a lot about your running game," said Titans coach Mike Vrabel, who won three Super Bowls while playing linebacker for New England.

The Patriots, looking to become just the second team to reach four consecutive Super Bowls, jumped ahead early on Nick Folk's 36-yard field goal and held a 10-7 lead after Julian Edelman took an end around 5 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the second quarter.

They were on the brink of another TD late in the quarter, but couldn't punch it in after having a first-and-goal from the 1-yard line and instead settled for a 21-yard Folk field goal. They wouldn't score again.

In the second half, Tennessee's defense took control, forcing punts on New England's first four possessions and doing even better on the fifth when former Patriots cornerback Logan Ryan brought back an interception 9 yards for a game-sealing touchdown in the final minute of play.

"Shut them out in the second half, and it's a testament to our players," said Vrabel, whose team earned a trip to Baltimore for the AFC Divisional round. "They really responded."

**GILLETTE STADIUM**
**Foxborough, Mass.** Jan. 4, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee | 7 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 20 |
| New England | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 13 |

**1st Quarter**
**NE** Folk 36 FG, 2:23
**TEN** Firkser 12 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 9:21

**2nd Quarter**
**NE** Edelman 5 run (Folk kick), 0:03
**NE** Folk 21 FG, 12:44
**TEN** Henry 1 run (Joseph kick), 14:25

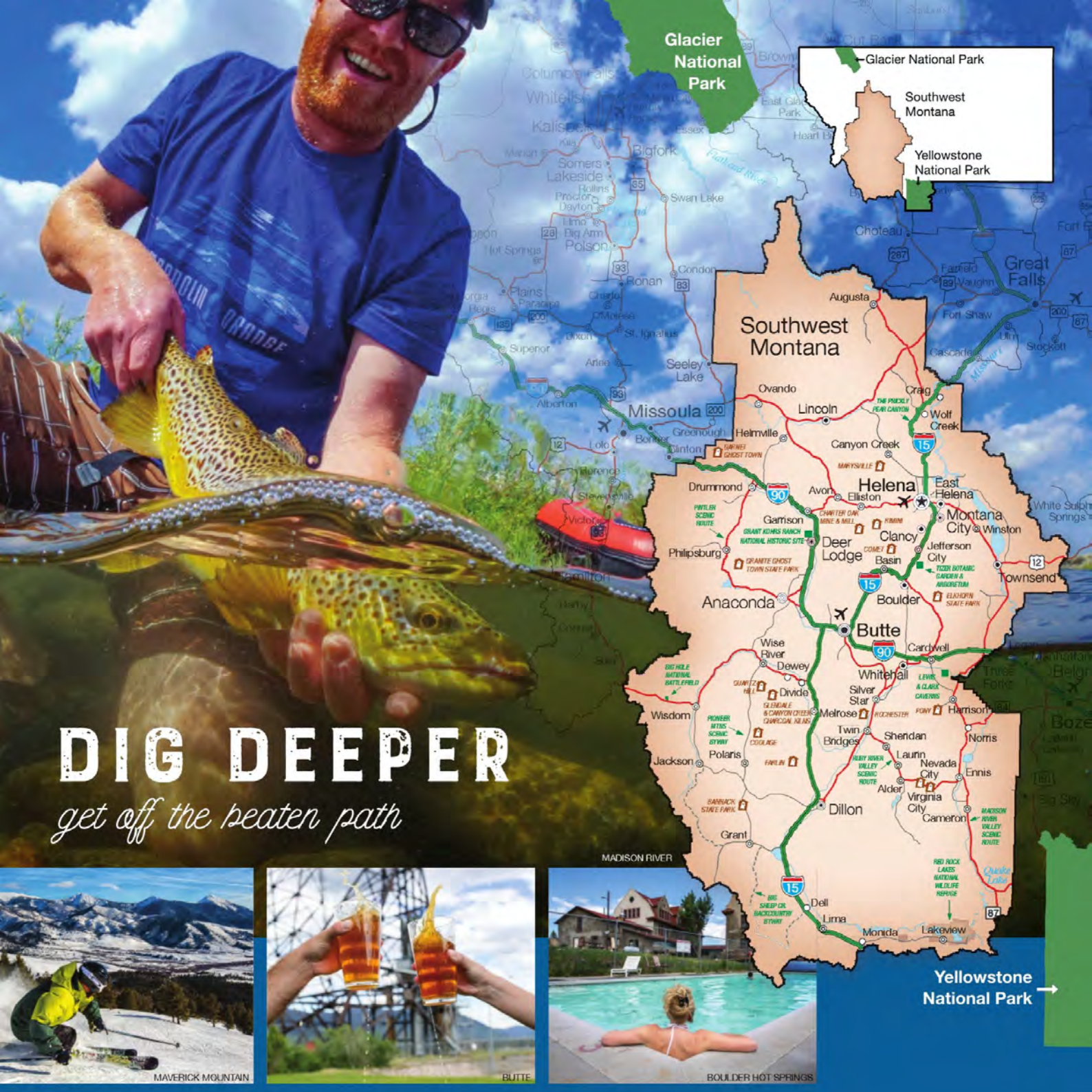
**4th Quarter**
**TEN** Ryan 9 interception return (run failed), 14:51

Logan Ryan

Damian Strohmeyer/AP Images

# DIG DEEPER

*get off the beaten path*





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# NFC WILD CARD

## VIKINGS (OT) 26
## SAINTS 20

### IN A FIRST-ROUND SHOWDOWN THAT HAD A BIT OF EVERYTHING, THE VIKINGS WITHSTOOD A LATE CHALLENGE TO CONQUER THE SAINTS.

**JUST WHEN IT SEEMED** New Orleans had all the momentum, scoring 10 points in the final minutes of regulation, Minnesota QB Kirk Cousins delivered on the first possession of overtime.

He connected with wide receiver Adam Thielen on an acrobatic 43-yard pass play that brought the ball deep into Saints territory and then found tight end Kyle Rudolph in the end zone for a 4-yard TD that produced a 26-20 win and silenced the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

"We talked about how we didn't want to leave anything in the bag," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "We had a chance to go down to score and win, and that is what we were trying to do. You have to take your shots when trying to win a playoff game."

The Vikings appeared well in control after Dalvin Cook ran for a pair of touchdowns to help build a 20-10 lead through three quarters. His first score, a 5-yard run just before intermission, was set up by an Anthony Harris interception. The second capped an 8-play, 64-yard drive that saw Cousins convert a pair of big third downs with passes to Thielen and Stephon Diggs.

"I'm thrilled we won a playoff game; I just do my part," said Cousins, after leading the Vikings to their first road playoff victory since the 2004 season. "We won the game today because we played great defense, got a turnover, had good special teams, great play-calling, and a great plan."

The loss overshadowed a terrific day by Saints all-purpose standout Taysom Hill, who caught a touchdown pass, rushed for a team-high 50 yards, and completed a 50-yard pass to Deonte Harris that led to Alvin Kamara's 4-yard TD run and a 10-3 Saints lead.

Minnesota would look to continue its road magic in the NFC Divisional Playoffs against the No.1-seeded 49ers.

**MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME**
**New Orleans, La.** Jan. 5, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 3 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 26 |
| New Orleans | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 20 |

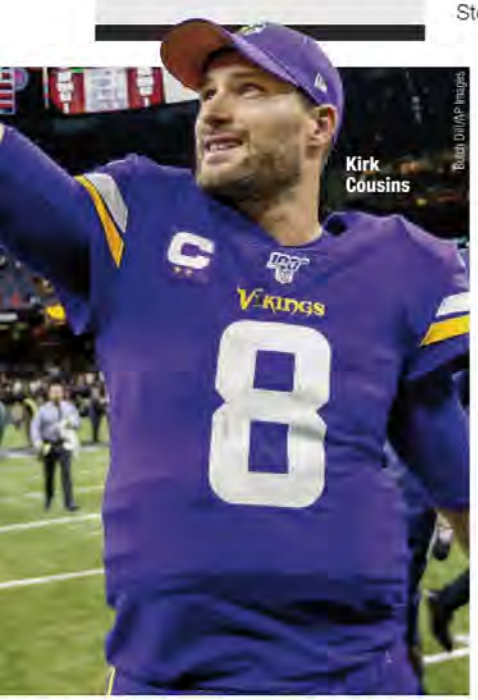
**1st Quarter**
NO Lutz 29 FG, 5:08
MIN Bailey 43 FG, 10:55

**2nd Quarter**
NO Kamara 4 run (Lutz kick), 5:42
MIN Bailey 21 FG, 12:06
MIN Cook 5 run (Bailey kick), 14:37

**3rd Quarter**
MIN Cook 1 run (Bailey kick), 11:37

**4th Quarter**
NO Hill 20 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 4:29
NO Lutz 49 FG, 14:58

**Overtime**
MIN Rudolph 4 pass from Cousins, 4:20


Kirk Cousins
Butch Dill/AP Images

## SEAHAWKS 17
## EAGLES 9

### WITH RUSSELL WILSON AND DK METCALF DELIVERING WHEN IT MATTERED MOST, SEATTLE SOARED TO A HARD-EARNED VICTORY.

**WHILE THERE WASN'T A TON OF OFFENSE,** Wilson and Metcalf made the plays that counted in Seattle's 17-9 victory at Lincoln Financial Field.

They connected on seven passes for 160 yards, including a nifty 53-yard touchdown in the third quarter and a game-clinching 36-yarder that allowed the visitors to run out the clock.

"The execution at the end, that was something we were looking for," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said. "We worked on it all week. That's as pretty as football can look right there. And at the most crucial time."

Wilson threw for 325 yards, led the team with 45 yards rushing, and kept the chains moving by converting 8 of 15 third-down opportunities. Two of those conversions came on a late second-quarter drive that ended with a 5-yard Marshawn Lynch TD run that snapped a 3-3 tie and gave the Seahawks the lead for good.

While Seattle was able to get into the end zone, the Eagles had to settle for a trio of Jake Elliott field goals – from 46, 26, and 38 yards – for their points and were stopped on downs on two fourth-quarter drives deep into Seahawks territory.

That second of those drives ended when defensive end Jadeveon Clowney sacked Eagles QB Josh McCown on a fourth-and-7 from the 10-yard line with just under two minutes to play. It was the last of seven sacks by Seattle, coming from six different defenders.

The star of the day, however, was Wilson, who earned his 95th career win, second-most by any player in his first eight seasons in the NFL.

"[Wilson's] running was spectacular. His movement was great," Carroll said. "There were three or four big plays that he made on the move, creating space for the guys to get open and finish their routes. That's what Russ gives you. He gives you those extra shots."

With the win, Seattle moved on to a Divisional Playoff contest at Green Bay, the first postseason meeting between the teams since the 2014 NFC Championship Game won by the Seahawks in overtime.

**LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD**
**Philadelphia, Pa.** Jan. 5, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 3 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 17 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 |

**1st Quarter**
SEA Myers 49 FG, 13:31

**2nd Quarter**
PHI Elliott 46 FG, 12:07
SEA Lynch 5 run (Myers kick), 13:54

**3rd Quarter**
PHI Elliott 26 FG, 4:24
SEA Metcalf 53 pass from Wilson (Myers kick), 6:14
PHI Elliott 38 FG, 12:11

DK Metcalf
Matt Rourke/AP Images

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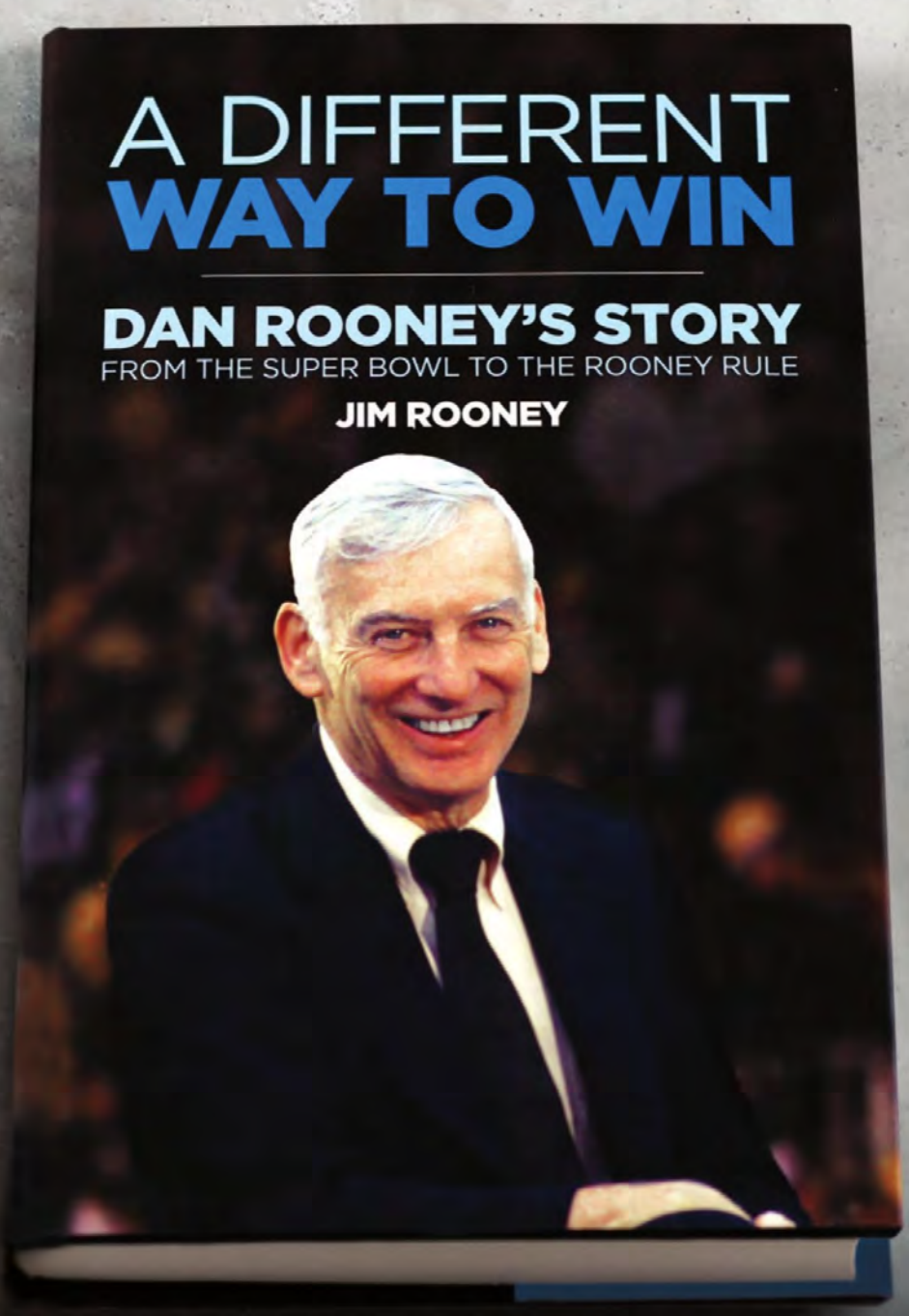


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AFC DIVISIONAL

# TITANS 28
# RAVENS 12

## TENNESSEE'S DERRICK HENRY ADDED TO HIS GROWING LEGACY WITH ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING GROUND EFFORT… AND, SURPRISE, A TOUCHDOWN PASS.

**M&T BANK STADIUM**
**Baltimore, Md.** **Jan. 11, 2020**

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee | 7 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 28 |
| Baltimore | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 12 |

**1st Quarter**
**TEN** Smith 12 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 11:24

**2nd Quarter**
**TEN** Raymond 45 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 0:15
**BAL** Tucker 49 FG, 9:08
**BAL** Tucker 22 FG, 15:00

**3rd Quarter**
**TEN** Davis 3 pass from Henry (Joseph kick), 8:06
**TEN** Tannehill 1 run (Joseph kick), 10:44

**4th Quarter**
**BAL** Hurst 15 pass from Jackson (run failed), 3:56

**THE POWERFUL RUNNING BACK** set an NFL mark by becoming the first player to rush for 180-or-more yards in three straight games, but that was just part of the story in the Titans' 28-12 victory over top-seeded Baltimore at a shocked M&T Bank Stadium.

The Ravens owned a 12-game winning streak and earned the AFC's top playoff seed by using a recipe of getting out to early leads, which then allowed QB Lamar Jackson to keep teams off-balance with his strong arm and ability to run.

Tennessee, however, stole the formula.

"They were beating people with shock and awe in the first quarter," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said of a Baltimore team that outscored opponents, 128-31, in the first 15 minutes of games during the regular season. "We knew we had to do it with some turnovers and fourth-down stops.

"It feels great to watch the players execute a game plan that the coaches worked very hard at," he added, after leading the Titans to their first AFC title game appearance since 2002. "All the credit goes to the coaches and, most especially, the players. They're the ones who went out and executed."

Henry finished with 195 rushing yards, but his signature moment may have come in the third quarter when he threw a 3-yard jump pass to wide reciever Corey Davis for a touchdown that stemmed any Baltimore momentum. It was the first playoff TD thrown by a running back since the Vikings' Allen Ross did it in 1987.

"I put it perfect, man," said Henry, who preceded that play with a 66-yard run that took the ball deep into Ravens territory. "I haven't done that pass since high school. I feel like I still got it."

The Titans' defense had it as well, keeping the Ravens, who scored a league-leading 33.2 points per game, to less than half that total. Tennessee twice picked off Jackson, forced a fumble, and stopped the Ravens on a pair of fourth-and-1s. All of the Titans' TDs were a result of those turnovers or stops.

The first came just minutes into the game when safety Kevin Byard picked off a tipped pass that set up Tennessee at the Ravens 35-yard line. Seven plays later, QB Ryan Tannehill found Jonnu Smith for a 4-yard TD pass in the left corner of the end zone. Moments into the second quarter, Tannehill made it 14-0 with an arching 45-yard pass to Kalif Raymond, one play after rookie linebacker David Long brought down Jackson shy of the sticks on a fourth-down play near midfield.

The win was a bit of payback for Titans teams of the past. In both 2000 and 2008, they were the AFC's top-seed, only to be knocked out of the playoffs by the Ravens.

Next up for Tennessee was a trip to Kansas City and the opportunity to become the first sixth seed to reach the Super Bowl since the 2010 Packers.

Gail Burton/AP Images

**Ryan Tannehill** made the most of his throws, connecting on a pair of first-half TD passes in the Titans' victory.

**Corey Davis catches** a touchdown pass from Derrick Henry to put the Titans ahead, 21-9, over the Ravens in their AFC Divisional Playoff clash.

Julio Cortez/AP Images

AFC DIVISIONAL

# TEXANS ..... 31
# CHIEFS ..... 51

## EVEN WITH 82 POINTS SCORED AND A STUNNING 24-POINT COMEBACK, THERE STILL WEREN'T ENOUGH FIREWORKS AT ARROWHEAD STADIUM.

**THAT LACK OF** illumination had nothing to do with the teams, however. It was the result of the Chiefs scoring too often in their 51-31 come-from-behind victory over the Texans at a delirious Arrowhead Stadium.

Tradition has it that the stadium crew sets off pyrotechnics every time the Chiefs reach the end zone. But when that count reached seven TDs early in the fourth quarter, team officials had to post an apology on the scoreboard announcing they had run out.

It doesn't appear any fans were complaining.

There was a time, however, when they were worrying. Less than 20 minutes into the AFC Divisional Playoff contest, the home team found itself in a 24-0 hole to the AFC South champs.

Despite the deficit and everything that had gone wrong, all was calm on the Chiefs sideline.

"The biggest thing I was preaching," said quarterback Patrick Mahomes, "was, 'Let's go do something special. Everybody is counting us out. Let's go out there, and on every play put it out there.' And play by play, we did what we were supposed to do."

Before the second quarter was complete, not only had the Chiefs caught up, they headed into the locker room holding a 28-24 lead. Mahomes threw four touchdown passes in the quarter, three to tight end Travis Kelce. They'd eventually pile up 41 consecutive points before the Texans finally answered.

Jay Biggerstaff/USA TODAY Sports

**Damien Williams extends** the ball after scoring one of his three touchdowns during the Chiefs' comeback victory.

**ARROWHEAD STADIUM**
**Kansas City, Mo.** Jan. 12, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 21 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 31 |
| Kansas City | 0 | 28 | 13 | 10 | 51 |

**1st Quarter**
- **HOU** Stills 54 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 3:01
- **HOU** Johnson 10 return blocked punt (Fairbairn kick), 4:54
- **HOU** Fells 4 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 13:39

**2nd Quarter**
- **HOU** Fairbairn 31 FG, 4:06
- **KC** Dam. Williams 17 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 5:05
- **KC** Kelce 5 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 6:55
- **KC** Kelce 6 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 8:29
- **KC** Kelce 5 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 14:16

**3rd Quarter**
- **KC** Dam. Williams 1 run (kick failed), 3:36
- **KC** Dam. Williams 5 run (Butker kick), 10:21
- **HOU** Watson 5 run (Fairbairn kick), 14:36

**4th Quarter**
- **KC** Bell 8 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 1:08
- **KC** Butker 24 FG, 6:54

Not surprisingly, the Chiefs set a few marks along the way. They became the first team in NFL history to win a playoff game by at least 20 points after trailing by at least 20, and they matched the fourth-biggest comeback in postseason history.

"It was an amazing thing. Everything was working," Mahomes said. "The play calls were open, everybody was getting open against man coverage, which we've been preaching all season long, and guys were making plays."

That playmaking extended to the other side of the ball. The Chiefs' defense tallied five sacks and stopped Houston on fourth down three times in the second half, halting any thoughts the Texans had of a comeback of their own.

"It was a great mindset game," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "When you're down 24-0, if you don't have a good locker room, things can go the wrong way for you.

"We just felt if we're not shooting ourselves in the foot, we'll be OK, and so we settled down and did a nice job."

The win positioned the Chiefs to host the AFC Championship Game for the second consecutive season and placed them one win away from their first Super Bowl appearance in a half century.

**Mike Pennel celebrates** a Chiefs defensive stop against the Texans. After giving up 21 first-quarter points, Kansas City allowed just 10 the rest of the game.

Aaron Spencher/AP Images

NFC DIVISIONAL

# VIKINGS 10
# 49ERS 27

## RIDING A DEFENSIVE WAVE THAT GREW STRONGER AS THE GAME WENT ON, SAN FRANCISCO TREATED ITS FANS TO AN IMPRESSIVE PLAYOFF WIN.

**LEVI'S STADIUM**
**Santa Clara, Calif.** Jan. 11, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| San Francisco | 7 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 27 |

**1st Quarter**
SF Bourne 3 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 5:30
MIN Diggs 41 pass from Cousins (Bailey kick), 9:37

**2nd Quarter**
SF Coleman 1 run (Gould kick), 7:50
MIN Bailey 39 FG, 14:29

**3rd Quarter**
SF Gould 35 FG, 4:18
SF Coleman 2 run (Gould kick), 10:06

**4th Quarter**
SF Gould 21 FG, 0:37

**A WEEK OFF ALLOWED** its vaunted defense to get healthy, and the results were evident as the top-seeded 49ers dominated the Vikings, 27-10, at Levi's Stadium for their first playoff win in six seasons.

San Francisco yielded just 147 total yards, a franchise playoff record, and turned two second-half turnovers into 10 insurance points as it steadily pulled away. Minnesota managed 83 yards in the first half, with nearly half of those coming on its lone touchdown of the day, and from one stretch late in the second quarter to midway through the fourth, the Vikings didn't record a single first down. They totaled just seven for the game.

"If our defense keeps playing like that, all we have to do is not turn the ball over to win games," said tight end George Kittle, who chipped in with three receptions.

Cornerback Richard Sherman's third career postseason interception, on the Vikings' first possession after halftime, proved pivotal, leading to a Tevin Coleman touchdown run that put San Francisco ahead 24-10. Coleman, who finished with 105 rushing yards, also scored in the second quarter to snap a 7-7 tie.

"We've been excited about Tevin all year," 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan said. "I'm glad he got his opportunities today. He came through big for us."

Jimmy Garoppolo, who this season joined Joe Montana and Steve Young as the only 49ers QBs with a season passer rating of 100 or better, set the tone early. He completed 5 of 6 passes on the team's first offensive series, capped by a 3-yard touchdown to wide receiver Kendrick Bourne.

"You'd like to say [your first drive] is always the most important until it doesn't work, then the next one is. But it's huge," Shanahan said. "After our defense held them (to open the game), we got in there and were able to go down and get seven. It's a great feeling."

Minnesota answered right away on Stefon Diggs' 41-yard touchdown catch, but that was the only time the Vikings struck paydirt. Not even talented halfback Dalvin Cook could help the cause; the 49ers limited him to 18 yards on nine carries.

"[Stopping Dalvin] was our No. 1 emphasis all week," said 49ers defensive lineman Nick Bosa, who had a team-leading six tackles and two of their six sacks. "We knew we were facing probably the best back we've faced all year, and we knew we had to earn the right to pass rush. So, that's what we did."

Conversely, the 49ers were able to force their will on the ground, with Raheem Mostert (58 yards) joining Coleman to help the 49ers pile up 185 rushing yards.

The next stop in San Francisco's search for a sixth Super Bowl crown would be the NFC Championship Game against the Packers, the seventh playoff meeting between the rivals.

Tony Avelar/AP Images

**Tevin Coleman crosses the goal line** for one of his two touchdowns in the 49ers' playoff win over Minnesota.

**Nick Bosa (left) and Kwon Alexander** were bound to smile after leading a 49ers defense that limited the Vikings to 147 total yards.

Ryan Kang/AP Images

# SEAHAWKS 23
# PACKERS 28

## A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TWO OF THE GAME'S MOST TALENTED AERIAL ARTISTS PRODUCED A PLAYOFF MASTERPIECE THAT HAD A FITTING FINISHING TOUCH.

**LAMBEAU FIELD**
**Green Bay, Wis.** Jan. 12, 2020

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle | 3 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 23 |
| Green Bay | 7 | 14 | 7 | 0 | 28 |

**1st Quarter**
GB Adams 20 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 4:23
SEA Myers 45 FG, 14:32

**2nd Quarter**
GB Jones 1 run (Crosby kick), 5:11
GB Jones 1 run (Crosby kick), 13:30

**3rd Quarter**
SEA Lynch 1 run (Myers kick), 5:16
GB Adams 40 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:51
SEA Lockett 7 pass from Wilson (Myers kick), 14:21

**4th Quarter**
SEA Lynch 1 run (pass failed), 5:27

**AARON RODGERS'** final stroke was the one his team needed the most, a clutch third-down pass to tight end Jimmy Graham to keep possession of the ball and allow Green Bay to run out the clock for a 28-23 triumph over Seattle at a raucous Lambeau Field.

For most of the day, Rodgers' favorite target was Davante Adams. The two connected eight times for 160 yards and a pair of touchdowns, with the veteran receiver setting a franchise postseason mark for receiving yards.

"It's one of those feelings that starts to creep up in warmups, when you really feel like you're locked in," Rodgers said, "and I was glad it translated to the field."

Rodgers (16 for 27, 243 yards, 2 TDs) found Adams open for a 20-yard scoring pass on Green Bay's opening possession, and after Aaron Jones added two 1-yard touchdown runs in the second quarter, the home team headed into halftime with a 21-3 lead.

Russell Wilson (21 of 31, 277 yards, 1 TD) nearly picked the Seahawks up off the canvas in the second half, guiding three consecutive touchdown drives – of 69, 84, and 79 yards – the last of those capped by Marshawn Lynch's 1-yard run with just under 10 minutes remaining.

However, that was as close as they would get. Seattle's next possession ended when a Preston Smith sack forced a punt with just under three minutes remaining, allowing Rodgers to play keepaway down the stretch. He converted a third-and-8 with a 32-yard pass to Adams along the right sideline and then sewed things up with his third-and-9 completion to Graham across the middle on the first play after the two-minute warning.

"We started the game the right way, and we finished it the right way," Rodgers said.

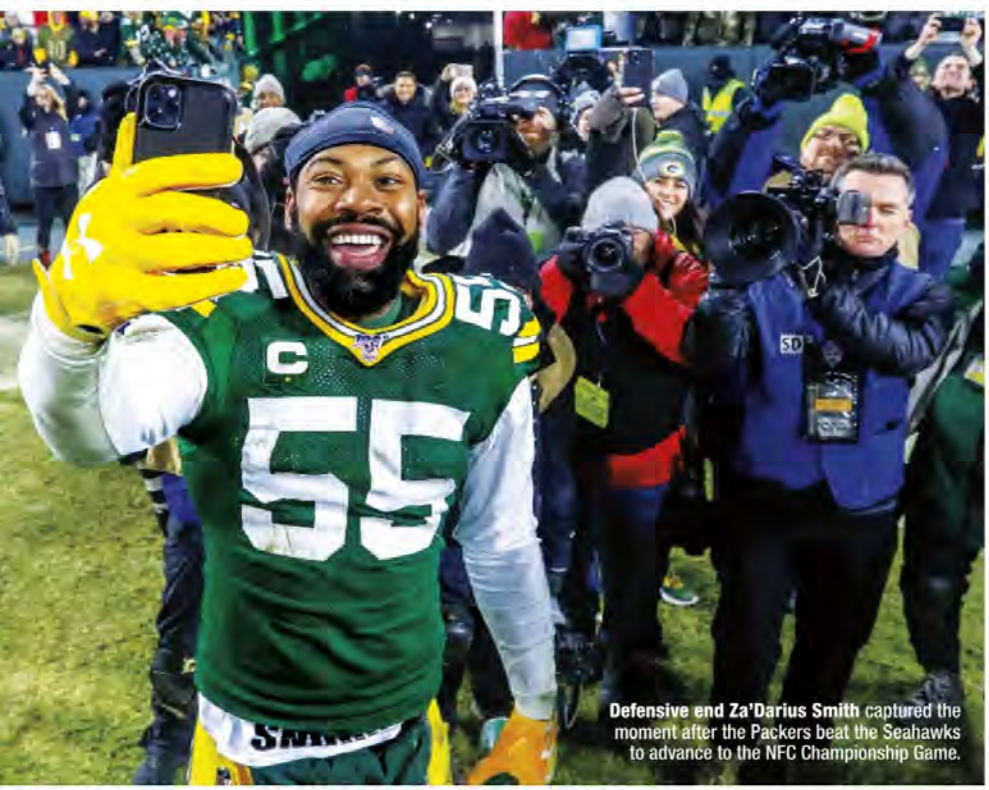
"It was indicative of our entire season right there with another game going down to the wire," added Packers first-year head coach Matt LaFleur. "I'm so proud of our guys and just the way they battle and play for each other. It's a resilient group. It wasn't pretty at times, but you know, it was great at the end of the game."

The ending produced a sad but familiar feeling for Seahawks fans; Seattle suffered its ninth straight setback at Lambeau, its last win there coming 20 seasons ago.

A big reason for Seattle's latest frustration was Rodgers' mobility and the Packers' stout offensive line. Seattle's defense, after collecting seven sacks in its Wild Card victory over Philadelphia, had just one against Green Bay.

The win sent the Packers on to San Francisco for the NFC Championship Game as they looked for their sixth Super Bowl appearance in franchise history and second with Rodgers at quarterback.

"There are only four teams and we're one of them," he said. "We have a legitimate chance."



Mike Roemer/AP Images

**Defensive end Za'Darius Smith** captured the moment after the Packers beat the Seahawks to advance to the NFC Championship Game.

**Davante Adams strides** into the end zone with his second touchdown catch of the game against the Seahawks.

Darron Cummings/AP Images

# FOR ALL TO

**WHETHER IT'S STAR-STUDDED HALFTIME SHOWS, WEEKLONG FAN ENGAGEMENT, OR NON-SPORTS MEDIA COVERAGE, THE SUPER BOWL CONTINUES TO WIDEN ITS APPEAL.** BY ADITI KINKHABWALA

**Super Bowl LIVE** in Centennial Park brought thousands of fans to Atlanta in the week leading up to Super Bowl LIII.

# SEE SEE SEE

Kirby Lee/USA TODAY Sports

**IT WAS LATE JANUARY 2011,** in Indianapolis, on one of the days leading up to Super Bowl XLVI.

A group of CBS executives were alternately walking through the city and, at every turn – by the temporary zip line, near the Super Bowl Experience, and, of course, along Radio Row – they'd see signage or a set for some property or another of this one particular sports network.

That's when it struck them: We could do that. With all of our properties – not just the ones in sports.

The next year, in New Orleans, CBS did exactly that, turning the city's historic Jackson Square into a history-making broadcast compound. The network brought in four different divisions – sports, news, entertainment, and digital – and 15 shows, and built everything from stages to a temporary cable bridge. The obvious sports entities were there all week ahead of the actual game CBS would carry, but so, too, was the daytime chat show *The Talk*. *CBS Good Morning* was live from the park three days. The *CBS Evening News* originated from there two days, and *Face the Nation* kicked off Super Bowl Sunday from a Jackson Square stage. Even the *Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* did a special show that night from New Orleans, after the Ravens had turned back the 49ers and hoisted the Lombardi Trophy.

It was all platforms, all entities, all in – a celebration that went well beyond football, and one that's been imitated in some form ever since.

"It was a moment where we all looked at each other and said, 'Wow,'" says Harold Bryant, CBS' Senior Vice President of Production. "The Super Bowl is a worldwide event that crosses every cultural boundary. It goes beyond a sporting event. It's an entertainment event, it's a family event, and it's a defacto holiday. What we did in New Orleans was almost a natural thing that was going to happen at some point by some network. We just jumped in."

This year, it's FOX's turn with week-long programming from Miami's Bayfront Park. And as part of a campaign to capitalize on the game's immense TV audience, the network will air the Season 3 premiere of *The Masked Singer* right after its Super Bowl broadcast concludes.

Television, however, is just part of the story. For Super Bowl I, the NFL credentialed 338 media. Last year in Atlanta, that number stood at 6,034 – and it's certain to be topped again in Miami.

What's so notable about those numbers is the percentage of credentials that now go to non-sports reporters, both from the United States and abroad. All because the Super Bowl in all its parts, from the weeklong walk-up to the broadcast commercials to the halftime show, captures the zeitgeist of our times better than perhaps any other event.

Consider this: In November, actor Robert Pattinson sat down with Jennifer Lopez as part of Variety's *Actors on Actors*, a series of one-hour specials featuring chats between two entertainers. NBC's *Today Show* aired a clip from that special on Nov. 14. The bit they used? Pattinson asking Lopez about being selected to perform at halftime of Super Bowl LIV.

Lopez's answer – "I think there's not a musical artist in the world that doesn't dream of performing at the Super Bowl" – speaks to the enormity of this stage, and parrot words used by players, broadcasters, flyover pilots, and just about anyone else associated with what started as a simple championship game.

Executives at the NFL have long used the analogy of a campfire to describe the game of football, the flame drawing folks in and keeping them huddled together. The Super Bowl is the mega campfire, the one that lures everyone, from the avid fan to the casual fan to even the non-sports fan. And just like the reasons to sit around a campfire vary, from warmth to light to general camaraderie, so, too, do the reasons to cover the Super Bowl.

"Clearly, the game is the most important. But only 65-70,000 people can actually be at the game," Peter O'Reilly explains. He's the NFL's executive vice president charged with overseeing the Super Bowl, among other things, and he readily acknowledges that the NFL not only welcomes, but attempts to cultivate, the wide-ranging attention. "All of the other components of interest are a byproduct of what's sprung up on gameday itself. But we are charged with creating a series of moments and experiences across the week that engages as many people as we can."

Of the components O'Reilly rattles off, the entertainment one is perhaps the largest. In 1991, the NFL switched from what had largely been college marching bands to pop music acts – and there's been no looking back. Super Bowl halftime concerts fill the list of the world's most-watched musical events ever (Lady Gaga at halftime of Super Bowl LI is uniformly accepted as No. 1 on that list, with 150 million

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| SUPER BOWL | SEASON | SITE | ACCREDITED MEDIA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Super Bowl LIII | 2018 | Atlanta | 6,034 |
| Super Bowl LII | 2017 | Minneapolis | 5,802 |
| Super Bowl LI | 2016 | Houston | 5,711 |
| Super Bowl 50 | 2015 | San Francisco Bay Area | 5,683 |
| Super Bowl XLV | 2010 | North Texas | 5,082 |
| Super Bowl XL | 2005 | Detroit | 4,476 |
| Super Bowl XXXV | 2000 | Tampa Bay | 3,502 |
| Super Bowl XXVI | 1991 | Minneapolis | 2,985 |
| Super Bowl I | 1966 | Los Angeles | 338 |

Fox Sports 1's *Undisputed* (above) was on location at Super Bowl LI. Lady Gaga (top right) is among the stars who've performed at a Super Bowl halftime. Nick Cannon (right) joined the fun when Nickelodeon took part in Super Bowl Week in Minneapolis.

Mike Coppola/Getty Images

viewers across various platforms) and O'Reilly chuckles as he remembers all the requests to be on the field for Beyoncé and Coldplay's performance at halftime of Super Bowl 50.

That entertainment element has bled into the days and hours leading up to the game, too. Various publications began hosting parties that featured musical performers; the NFL took note and last year created a Super Bowl Music Fest, with official pop-up concerts over several nights preceding the game. More concerts, more sanctioned events, more boldfaced names in and around all of that equals more opportunities for coverage from non-sports engines.

Business reporters and publications have taken an interest in the economics of both the broadcast and the event that is the Super Bowl for an even longer period. Super Bowl commercials became cultural talking points – and expensive real estate – back when the game was still in its single digits. In 1973, Joe Namath and Farrah Fawcett starred in a Noxzema shave cream commercial that inspired national conversation; ever since, there are years when certain commercials are recalled more easily than the game's participants (see: 1984 and the Ridley Scott-directed Apple commercial; or 2010 and the Betty White Snickers spot).

Last year in Atlanta, the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the city itself were stories. Dana Jacobson, *CBS Good Morning*'s weekend anchor, did pieces on the murals around the city and the artwork Falcons owner Arthur Blank has curated inside the stadium. Jacobson has a background in both news and sports and, in fact, was a host of ESPN's *Cold Pizza* when that show spent a week headquartered in Detroit in advance of Super Bowl XL. She says "there's a big, big difference" in a news show live from a Super Bowl city than a sports show, and adds she's felt an extra charge the last few years working from outside the boxscore.

"It's so amazing that someone who doesn't really care about football will devote this one Sunday to football. They might not even know who's playing, but there's a pretty good chance they will be somewhere watching the game," Jacobson says. "The fun for me is can I do stories now that surround the event, that can hopefully make someone who is a non-sports fan have a little more interest in the game."

And that, ultimately, is the NFL's hope. O'Reilly says as big as Super Bowl Week has become, he and his cohorts at the league are constantly asking themselves, "How do you continue to elevate that week?"

A few years ago, the answer was to make Media Day, when all the players and coaches are made available in a large arena, open to the public. Not long after that, the answer became to move Media Day to Monday night, where it could serve as something of an Opening Night, a produced scene to kick off the week and be available to view in primetime.

There is certainly a chicken-and-egg nature to the exponential growth in which the Super Bowl, and all that title encompasses, has come to dominate conversation. The more coverage outlets offer, the greater the interest generated. The more people flock to the game's ancillary events, the more coverage they demand. Either way, Super Bowl Week has become an annual celebration, one that captures a cross section of society, all pulled in by the game – and some engaged by elements altogether beyond it.

***Aditi Kinkhabwala** has been a reporter on NFL Network since 2012. Prior to that, she was a writer at the* Wall Street Journal *and, before that, the* Bergen Record *and* San Antonio Express-News.

FOR SOME OF THE NFL'S GREATEST PLAYERS, WINNING THE SUPER BOWL IN THEIR FINAL GAME PROVIDED THE ULTIMATE SENDOFF. BY MIKE GARAFOLO

# MISSION COMPLETE

**For Ray Lewis, it's confetti.** Every time he feels it or sees it, he's back on the field in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, celebrating an improbable championship with his teammates.

Jerome Bettis needs only to close his eyes and he's at Ford Field, back in his hometown of Detroit, holding aloft the Lombardi Trophy that had eluded him for the first 12 seasons of his career.

It's the same for John Elway, Peyton Manning, Michael Strahan, and, most recently, Rob Gronkowski – all players who capped outstanding NFL careers in the way their counterparts could only dream: with a Super Bowl title and then the proverbial ride into the sunset.

"There's this tingle that comes through the top of my head and it covers my whole head because you forget good plays, bad plays, good games, and bad games. But when you leave like that, that one memory will never, ever leave you," Lewis says. "It's three seconds away from you going and having a party for yourself and having a cigar like, 'You know what, I did it.'

"And it never gets old. I'm telling you, it's a very special thing."

**Ray Lewis soaks in the atmosphere** after closing out his career by leading the Ravens to victory in Super Bowl XLVII.

Harry How/Getty Images

**Michael Strahan** made his final game memorable, inspiring the Giants' upset of the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

David J. Phillip/AP Images

**Peyton Manning** stepped up to deliver a Super Bowl title for the Broncos in his final season.

Getty Images

When Lewis tore his triceps in Week 6 of the 2012 season, it was the first in a chain of events that led the Hall of Fame linebacker to decide he would retire at season's end. So, along the way, he took mental snapshots of everything that was happening.

Lewis remembers the time of game when his injury occurred, the yard line, the defensive call, the formation, the score, and… well, you get the point.

And Lewis certainly will never forget re-tearing his triceps in practice – a secret he kept to himself – as he was attempting his return. Shortly thereafter, with the Ravens barely getting into the playoffs, Lewis told his teammates he was retiring at season's end.

"My gosh, the emotions, looking at these coaches in their faces, knowing I had been there my whole career and they saw something ending," Lewis says of what he estimated as a 30-minute speech in which he told the team: "I'm leaving this game, but we're not walking away without finishing it in New Orleans."

Backed up at their own 7-yard line with 2:39 to play in Super Bowl XLVII, the Ravens' defense needed to hold off the 49ers' attempt at a game-winning touchdown.

Lewis' arm was throbbing. He implored his teammates to give their all. He never doubted Colin Kaepernick's last three passes would fall incomplete. He also never second-guessed his decision to retire and wouldn't have gone back on it, even if the Niners had scored to swipe away the Lombardi Trophy.

"I had written it in my Bible. I had done too many things," Lewis says. "This is the way it was going to go. It was beautiful."

**Manning's** exit from the NFL was also beautiful. That's the way he remembers the 76-degree day at Levi's Stadium for Super Bowl 50.

"Just a gorgeous day for football, maybe as good of football weather as I've ever played in, just absolutely perfect, great football setting," Manning says, and he sounds like Lewis when he adds: "I remember everything about it."

Manning recalls losing his job as the Broncos' starting quarterback to Brock Osweiler midway through the 2015 season – technically because of injury but not getting it back until Osweiler struggled in Week 17, opening the door for Manning to lead a comeback victory over the Chargers.

"The Sheriff" then led the Broncos to two playoff wins to set up their meeting with the Panthers in the Super Bowl.

On that gorgeous day in Santa Clara, Manning completed only 13 of 23 passes for 141 yards and no touchdowns. But with his typical command at the line – audibles and checks to run plays – the Broncos' offense did enough for a 24-10 win and Manning's second championship.

"I didn't know it was going to be my last game at the time for sure, but I certainly knew it might be," Manning says. "When you're out there, you're trying to soak up the moment and enjoy the journey, not the destination. I enjoyed that whole week, the game, the celebration after, the parade, going to the White House, the whole thing.

"The fact that it ended up being my last game certainly makes it even more special."

Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

**Rob Gronkowski capped** a standout career in 2018 by winning his third Super Bowl championship with the Patriots.

In 2007, **Strahan** sat out training camp while pondering a life after football. He eventually returned and contributed nine sacks to a Giants pass rush that carried the team to Super Bowl XLII and an upset of the previously unbeaten Patriots – a win Strahan called the "icing on the cake" of his Hall of Fame career.

Strahan retired in June 2008. A few months later, the Giants called to see if he'd return to the field when defensive end Osi Umenyiora suffered a season-ending knee injury. He thought about it, but remained retired and kicked off a media career with FOX as an NFL studio analyst that has since grown to include countless news and entertainment gigs.

"When you don't have [a championship ring], you justify to yourself that you don't need it," Strahan says. "Then, when you get one, you're like, 'There's no way I could have left without it.'"

**Gronkowski**, whose body had taken a beating over nine seasons, also considered walking away one year before hanging up his cleats. Like Strahan, he had lucrative non-football opportunities waiting, so he was mulling retirement even before the Patriots lost to the Eagles in Super Bowl LII.

The following offseason, the Patriots nearly traded him to the Lions, and Gronkowski said privately he would retire rather than play for anyone other than New England. The deal was never finalized and thus Gronkowski returned for one final year with the Pats – one he helped punctuate with a 29-yard catch to set up the only touchdown in their Super Bowl LIII victory over the Rams.

**"WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE, YOU'RE TRYING TO SOAK UP THE MOMENT AND ENJOY THE JOURNEY, NOT THE DESTINATION."**

**– PEYTON MANNING**

From the moment he announced his retirement last March, Gronkowski heard speculation from many he'd be back. Even his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, said he didn't think it was the end for Gronk at age 29.

However, he's remained retired.

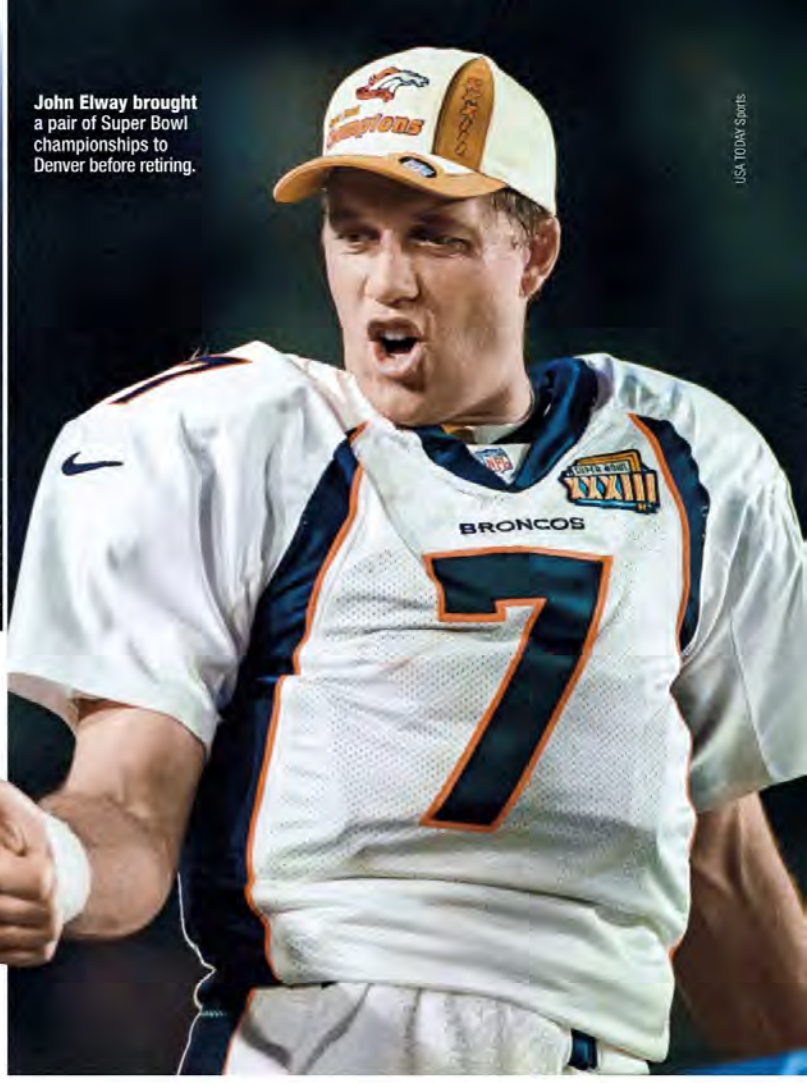
Gronkowski already had two rings (Super Bowls XLIX and LI), but there's something about the last one before walking away that helps keep a man at peace.

"At first, I wasn't thinking, 'Oh, I'm going out on top.' It was, 'I've got to heal myself,'" says Gronkowski, who suffered a leg injury in the Super Bowl that was so bad it disrupted his sleep for a month.

"But now that I'm healed, now that I look at it, it's surreal going

**Jerome Bettis returned** for one last season with the Steelers and the opportunity to win a Super Bowl in his hometown of Detroit.

Harry How/Getty Images



**John Elway brought** a pair of Super Bowl championships to Denver before retiring.

USA TODAY Sports

out on top and winning a championship… and that's my final game, being able to make that catch down the seam. Now I'm realizing and seeing it is amazing."

After the 2004 season, **Bettis** had decided to park "The Bus" for good following the Steelers' loss in the AFC Championship Game despite a 15-1 regular season.

But at a luau during Pro Bowl Week in Hawaii, teammates Clark Haggans and Larry Foote told Bettis it would be a shame when they won the Super Bowl the following year without him in the running back's hometown of Detroit. It was then Bettis began to reconsider his decision to retire and eventually decided to come back.

So, if Super Bowl XL had been played in, say, Miami or New Orleans, would Bettis have stayed retired?

"Yeah," he says. "Absolutely."

By early December, Bettis was regretting his decision. The Steelers had lost three straight to fall to 7-5 and knew they had to run the table in a highly competitive AFC – and get help – just to squeak into the playoffs.

"I'm saying to myself, 'I came back for this?'" Bettis recalls.

The Steelers didn't lose again, even surviving a rare fumble by Bettis late in the Divisional round against the Colts (thanks to a shoestring tackle by QB Ben Roethlisberger, one of many Steelers who had begged Bettis to return that season) on their way to Motown.

Though everyone pretty much knew the matchup with the Seahawks would be Bettis' last game, he refused to confirm it. He told only one member of the Steelers organization he'd be retiring after the game: owner Dan Rooney. Bettis didn't want coach Bill Cowher to alter the game plan to spotlight him.

As stat lines go (14 carries for 43 yards), it wasn't one of Bettis' best games. But it's one he will never forget, as he got to announce his retirement after finally hoisting the Lombardi Trophy.

"It still feels incredible, and I never missed it a day after I retired," he says. "I knew it was the right thing to do. It was perfect."

Like Bettis, **Elway** had a few "I came back for this?" moments in 1998.

Severe hamstring and rib injuries reminded him his playing days were numbered at the age of 38. He'd considered retirement after the previous season when he'd finally won his first Super Bowl.

But Elway knew the Broncos had a good chance to repeat, so back he came. And it was a pretty smooth run – from a 13-0 start to the season to a 34-19 never-in-doubt win over the Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII.

All week leading up to the game in Miami, the forecast had called for a chance of rain. Elway feared playing a Super Bowl in a downpour, so he was on edge. The weather held off until shortly after the game.

"The skies opened up and I figured it was God telling me, 'You know what, it's probably time to move on,'" Elway says. "I had a tough year physically, so I didn't want to press my luck any further."

Elway still gave himself about three months to mull his future before making his retirement official.

"Very rarely do people leave the game with themselves making the decision," says Elway, who has had to make many tough calls about players' fates since becoming a Broncos executive in 2011. "When you do that, the memories are much fonder and positive than if you were to get released, which happens most of the time."

Maybe one day Elway will get the chance to leave the Broncos' front office the same way he left the field: with another championship ring on his finger.

"That wouldn't be bad," Elway, who won his first title as GM in Super Bowl 50, says with a chuckle. "I wouldn't mind having a chance to make that decision."

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***Mike Garafolo** is a reporter for NFL Network who has covered the NFL since 2002. A Philadelphia native, he now resides in New Jersey with his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Carmen.*

# GOOD MORNING FOOTBALL

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ON SUPER BOWL EVE, THERE'S ONLY ONE SOUND EVERY PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HOPEFUL WANTS TO HEAR.

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS

# KNOCK OF AGES

**Seventeen family members piled into Jerry Jones'** hotel suite on the morning of Pro Football Hall of Fame voting for the Class of 2017. They told stories, joked, ate, watched NFL Network, anything to pass the time as they waited. And waited… and waited….

One hour turned into two hours, which turned into three hours, which turned into four hours.

"There would be lulls when it would be real quiet, because we knew it was serious stuff," Rich Dalrymple, the Dallas Cowboys' senior vice president of public relations, remembers. "For one of the rare times, it was something completely out of Jerry's hands. He's used to being able to do something about things, so he's asking, 'What? We can't do anything?'"

When the knock finally came, the screams began before anyone even answered the door.

"The knock says it," says Jones, the Cowboys' owner since 1989. "It's like a bomb going off."

David Baker stands 6-foot-9 and weighs more than 400 pounds, so the president of the Pro Football Hall of Fame doesn't knock softly when he carries big news.

**The sound and sight of** Pro Football Hall of Fame President David Baker is what all Hall of Fame finalists hope for.

Courtesy of Pro Football Hall of Fame

"Oh, it's distinctive," LaDainian Tomlinson, a first-ballot Hall of Famer in the Class of 2017, says of the knock. "It's one of the loudest sounds that you could ever hear. Certainly, it's the hardest knock I've ever heard on a door. You know, without question, who it is."

For most of the history of the Hall of Fame, inductees received the good news with a phone call. TV changed that in 2015 when producers wanted to include the Hall of Fame announcement in *NFL Honors*, the league's awards show held the night before the Super Bowl. Since then, finalists receive a stipend and Super Bowl tickets if they want to attend and receive the honor in person. Most do.

"We say, 'The Knock,' now, and everyone knows exactly what that is," says Joe Horrigan, who retired last June as the executive director and historian at the Hall of Fame, "so we've added a word to the football lexicon. It really has become such an emotional moment that everybody understands what that is now. Before, it was, 'The Call.' That just doesn't have the same ring to it."

The Hall of Fame has welcomed 39 new members the past five years. Baker has knocked on the hotel room of most to inform them in person of their football immortality. The reactions have ranged from Morten Andersen's disbelief to Brett Favre's humbleness to Kevin Mawae's tears to Jerome Bettis' silence.

"We owe them that great moment because of the many great moments that they've given to us," Baker says. "It is something I wish we could give to every player who played the game, but what makes it so special is how difficult it is to get in."

On the eve of the Super Bowl, Hall of Fame candidates are sequestered in their hotel rooms all afternoon. No one knows the exact time the selection meeting will end, creating anxiety for those waiting.

"They tell you that they will call you by 3:30 if you're not going in and knock on your door by 4 if you got in," former Cowboys player personnel director Gil Brandt, a member of the Class of 2019, says. "But 3:30 came and went, and then 4 came and went. I picked up my phone, and the battery was dead. I had no idea if they had tried to call. Then, room service knocked on the door. They had the wrong room. After all that waiting and wondering, when Baker arrived with his entourage, it seemed like everything happened so quick."

No one in recent years waited longer than

John Salangsang/AP Images



Courtesy of Pro Football Hall of Fame

**Top:** As part of a recent tradition, each Pro Football Hall of Fame induction class is introduced at *NFL Honors*, the league awards show that airs the night before the Super Bowl. **Bottom:** David Baker congratulates Brett Favre after informing him that he was selected as part of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2016.

former Packers offensive lineman Jerry Kramer. He played his last game in 1968; he got the knock in 2018. Kramer, a finalist 10 previous times, opened the door to find Baker standing outside. He stared at the Hall of Fame president, seemingly needing a minute to realize his football destiny finally had arrived.

"I opened the door, and I saw it was him and not housekeeping," Kramer says. "It was overwhelming, just an incredible series of emotions. I looked at him and said, 'You are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.' Seeing him in that posture, knowing that I was in the Hall, it was just a huge thrill, a wonderful, wonderful moment."

Bettis, whose 13,662 career rushing yards rank him in the top 10 in NFL history, received the dreaded phone call four times before finally earning induction in the Class of 2015. But he didn't wait for the knock, leaving his hotel room before Baker arrived with the good news.

"He thought it was taking too long, and that meant he didn't get in," Baker says, "so he left."

Andersen, Mawae, Favre, Jones, Ray Lewis, Ron Wolf, Randy Moss, and Brian Urlacher are among those who had memorable reactions

to Baker's knock. Urlacher forgot to take the "Do Not Disturb" sign off his door, prompting Baker to greet him with the sign and question whether the former Bears linebacker really meant it. Wolf answered the door not fully dressed, awaiting word before putting on his dress clothes. Mawae couldn't stop the tears, grabbing Baker in a bear hug and refusing to let go.

"I know what it's like to get the phone call, and I just prayed my phone wouldn't ring," recalls Mawae, inducted in his third year of eligibility. "When the knock at the door comes, you just know, because it's not like it's just a little knock. It's a rap on the door. You've got to think Mr. Baker is the largest human being in the world, so his knock is not going to be light at all. I threw my phone up to my wife (Tracy) and yelled, 'We got in,' and I just started crying. She said, 'You've got to go answer the door.'

"Everybody saw the video. I get choked up now, thinking about it. I just bawled like a baby. It's like your entire football life – from the time you started all the way through just flashing before your eyes. The first thing you think about are all the people who were on the journey with you."

Finalists have two rules on their day – or days in some cases – of truth: They don't order room service, and they tell friends and family not to call. Still, nearly every Hall of Famer in the past five years has a story of a knock or a phone call gone wrong.

"Having been through it before, the thing you know about the Pro Football Hall of Fame is if your phone rings, you ain't getting in; if you get the knock, you do," Ty Law, a member of the Class of 2019, says. "But when you get drafted, you wait for your phone to ring. It's like the total opposite. For whatever reason, my phone just rang and rang and rang [while awaiting word in 2019].

"I'm like, 'Dammit, quit calling me,' as I'm sitting there hoping I don't see a Canton, Ohio, number come up. You want to turn your phone off, but then you might miss the phone call telling you that you didn't get in."

Andersen perhaps had more false alarms than anyone. The NFL's second all-time leading scorer earned induction in 2017 in his fifth year of eligibility, but initially didn't believe the knock was real because a year earlier he had forgotten to tell his sister-in-law and her husband not to knock on his door. When they did, Andersen threw his hands up and yelled, "I'm in. Yes!"

"Not that I wasn't happy to see them," Andersen adds, chuckling about it now.

That came a year after his wife ordered room service without Andersen's knowledge, turning the wait into a knock, knock joke.

"The knock at the door, of course, was not David Baker," Andersen says. "That didn't make me too happy, either, to see a club sandwich. So when we were in Houston (in 2017), I said, 'No room service from 2 to 5 p.m. and no visitors. I want to make sure if the knock comes, it's authentic and it's real.'"

Andersen answered Baker's knock with not one, "No way!" but two.

Jones' room reacted with shouts of joy heard through the door before anyone ever answered. Family members jumped, screamed, and surrounded Jones for a group hug. Jones cried.

"I couldn't believe it," Jones says. "It was a real emotional experience that I felt like everybody was a part of. That made it special, experiencing it as a family. It was about us, not me."

The Hall of Fame was worth their wait.

Fred Kfoury III/Getty Images

Frank Micelotta/AP Images

David Durochik/AP Images

Courtesy of Pro Football Hall of Fame

**Clockwise from top left:** Packers guard Jerry Kramer waited 50 years after his final NFL game in 1968 to be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Ty Law was among four defensive backs in the Hall's Class of 2019. David Baker holds a "Do Not Disturb" sign outside Brian Urlacher's hotel room before telling the legendary Bears linebacker he was Hall of Fame-bound. Former Packers GM Ron Wolf is introduced at *NFL Honors* after being elected to the Class of 2015.

***Charean Williams*** *works for NBC's* Pro Football Talk *and serves as a Hall of Fame Selector. She is completing her 25th season covering the NFL.*

# SUPER BOWL RECORDS

## GAMES

**Most Games**
9 – Tom Brady, New England, XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLII, XLVI, XLIX, LI, LII, LIII

**Most Games, Winning Team**
6 – Tom Brady, New England, XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIX, LI, LIII

**Most Games, Coach**
9 – Bill Belichick, New England, XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLII, XLVI, XLIX, LI, LII, LII

**Most Games, Winning Team, Coach**
6 – Bill Belichick, New England, XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIX, LI, LIII

## SCORING

**Most Points, Career**
48 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco-Oakland, 4 games (8 TD)

**Most Points, Game**
20 – James White, New England vs. Atlanta, LI (3 TD, 1 2-PAT)

**Most Touchdowns, Career**
8 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco-Oakland, 4 games

**Most Touchdowns, Game**
3 – Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX;
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV; vs. San Diego Chargers, XXIX;
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego Chargers, XXIX;
Terrell Davis, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII;
James White, New England vs. Atlanta, LI

**Most PATs (Kicking), Career**
13 – Adam Vinatieri, New England-Indianapolis, 5 games

**Most PATs (Kicking), Game**
7 – Mike Cofer, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV;
Lin Elliott, Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII;
Doug Brien, San Francisco vs. San Diego Chargers, XXIX

**Most Two-Point Conversions, Game**
1 – by 10 players, most recently by
James White & Danny Amendola, New England vs. Atlanta, LI

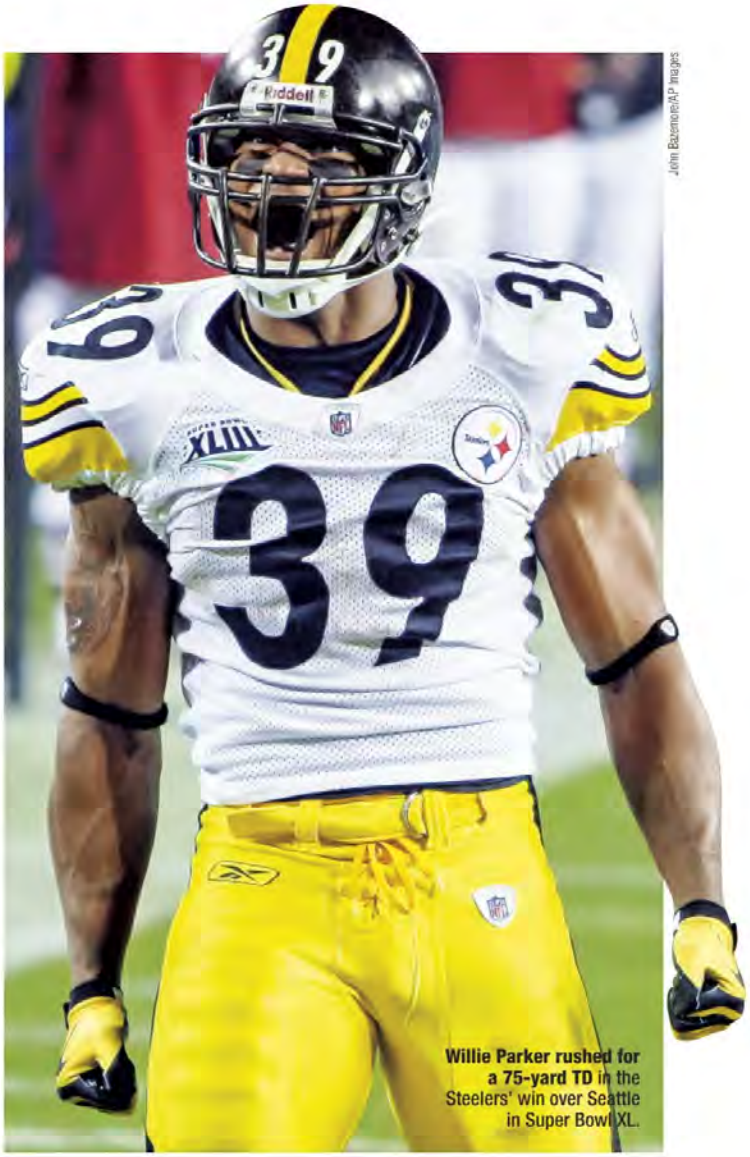
**Most Field Goals, Career**
7 – Adam Vinatieri, New England-Indianapolis, 5 games (10 attempts);
Stephen Gostkowski, New England, 6 games (9 attempts)

**Most Field Goals, Game**
4 – Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II;
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI

**Longest Field Goal**
54 – Steve Christie, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII

**Steve Christie holds the** record for longest field goal in Super Bowl history with a 54-yarder vs. Dallas in Super Bowl XXVIII.

Jonathan Daniel/Getty Images



**Willie Parker rushed for a 75-yard TD** in the Steelers' win over Seattle in Super Bowl XL.

John Bazemore/AP Images

## RUSHING

**Most Attempts, Career**
101 – Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games

**Most Attempts, Game**
38 – John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

**Most Yards Gained, Career**
354 – Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games

**Most Yards Gained, Game**
204 – Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

**Longest Run From Scrimmage**
75 – Willie Parker, Pittsburgh vs. Seattle, XL (TD)

**Highest Average Gain, Career (min. 20 attempts)**
9.6 – Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders, 1 game (20-191)

**Highest Average Gain, Game (min. 10 attempts)**
10.5 – Tom Matte, Baltimore Colts vs. N.Y. Jets, III (11-116)

**Most Touchdowns, Career**
5 – Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 3 games

**Most Touchdowns, Game**
3 – Terrell Davis, Denver vs. Green Bay, XXXII

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## PASSING

**Highest Passer Rating, Career (min. 40 attempts)**
127.8 – Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games

**Highest Passer Rating, Game**
150.9 – Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants vs. Denver, XXI

**Most Passes Attempted, Career**
392 – Tom Brady, New England, 9 games

**Most Passes Attempted, Game**
62 – Tom Brady, New England vs. Atlanta, LI

**Most Passes Completed, Career**
256 – Tom Brady, New England, 9 games

**Most Passes Completed, Game**
43 – Tom Brady, New England vs. Atlanta, LI

**Most Consecutive Completions, Game**
16 – Tom Brady, New England vs. N.Y. Giants, XLVI

**Highest Completion Percentage, Career (min. 40 attempts)**
70.0 – Troy Aikman, Dallas, 3 games, (56-80)

**Highest Completion Percentage, Game (min. 20 attempts)**
88.0 – Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants vs. Denver, XXI (22-25)

**Most Yards Gained, Career**
2,838 – Tom Brady, New England, 9 games

**Most Yards Gained, Game**
505 – Tom Brady, New England vs. Philadelphia, LII

**Longest Pass Completion**
85 – Jake Delhomme (to Muhsin Muhammad), Carolina vs. New England, XXXVIII (TD)

**Most Touchdown Passes, Career**
18 – Tom Brady, New England, 9 games

**Most Touchdown Passes, Game**
6 – Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego Chargers, XXIX

**Most Passes Without an Interception, Game**
48 – Tom Brady, New England vs. N.Y. Giants, XLII

Gregory Payan/AP Images

**Among Tom Brady's numerous** Super Bowl records are yards passing in a game (505).

George Rose/Getty Images

**Jerry Rice caught three** touchdown passes in two different Super Bowls.

## RECEIVING

**Most Receptions, Career**
33 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco-Oakland, 4 games

**Most Receptions, Game**
14 – James White, New England vs. Atlanta, LI

**Most Yards Gained, Career**
589 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco-Oakland, 4 games

**Most Yards Gained, Game**
215 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII

**Longest Reception**
85 – Muhsin Muhammad (from Jake Delhomme), Carolina vs. New England, XXXVIII (TD)

**Highest Average Gain, Career (min. 8 receptions)**
24.4 – John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games (11-268)

**Highest Average Gain, Game (min. 3 receptions)**
40.33 – John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. L.A. Rams, XIV (3-121)

**Most Touchdowns, Career**
8 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco-Oakland, 4 games

**Most Touchdowns, Game**
3 – Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV; vs. San Diego Chargers, XXIX

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AND THE COUNTLESS FANS OVER
THOSE 100 SEASONS.
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FOR CELEBRATING
THE JOY
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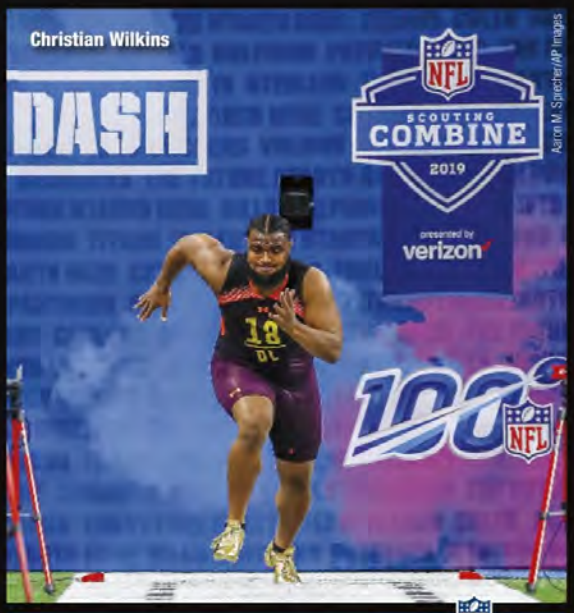
# 2020 NFL EVENTS

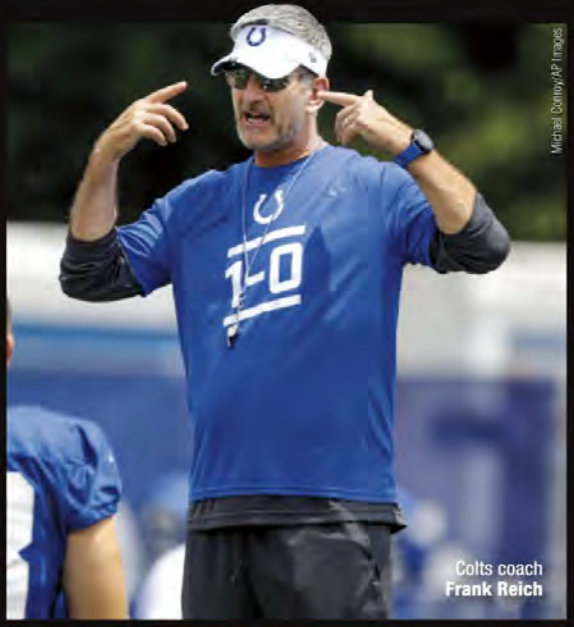
# FASTFORWARD



## FEB. 24 – MARCH 2
### NFL SCOUTING COMBINE

**nfl.com/combine**

In preparation for the upcoming draft, more than 300 top pro prospects will attend the NFL Scouting Combine at Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium. NFL Network will be there for it all, providing exclusive and extensive live coverage each day with player workouts, expert analysis, and interviews with participants, coaches, and team officials.




## MID-JULY
### TRAINING CAMP/PRESEASON

**nfl.com/trainingcamp**

Training camp is where NFL teams officially start their pursuit of a Super Bowl title. As camps unfold and teams narrow down to their 53-man rosters, NFL.com and NFL Network will provide analysis and insights from around the league. NFL Network also will televise every preseason game, including more than a dozen games live.

## APRIL 23-25
### NFL DRAFT

**nfl.com/draft**

Find out where the next generation of NFL stars will be playing when the 85th annual NFL Draft takes place in Las Vegas – on and around the iconic Las Vegas Strip. NFL Network, ESPN/ESPN2, and ABC will provide live coverage, starting with Round 1 in primetime (8 p.m. ET) on Thursday, April 23. Last year, the Arizona Cardinals chose University of Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick.

### 2020 NFL DRAFT ORDER

1. Cincinnati Bengals
2. Washington Redskins
3. Detroit Lions
4. New York Giants
5. Miami Dolphins
6. Los Angeles Chargers
7. Carolina Panthers
8. Arizona Cardinals
9. Jacksonville Jaguars
10. Cleveland Browns
11. New York Jets
12. Raiders
13. Indianapolis Colts
14. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
15. Denver Broncos
16. Atlanta Falcons
17. Dallas Cowboys
18. Miami Dolphins+
19. Raiders++
20. Jacksonville Jaguars+++
21. Philadelphia Eagles
22. Buffalo Bills
23. New England Patriots
24. New Orleans Saints
25. Minnesota Vikings
26. Miami Dolphins++++
27. Seattle Seahawks
28. Baltimore Ravens
29. Tennessee Titans*
30. Kansas City Chiefs*
31. Green Bay Packers*
32. San Francisco 49ers*

*+from Steelers ++from Bears +++from Rams ++++from Texans*
**Final order determined by playoff finish*

## SEPTEMBER 16-19
### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**profootballhof.com/centennialcelebration**

The Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Canton, Ohio, community will celebrate the NFL's 100th birthday in the city where the league was born. The extravaganza will include a grand opening ceremony featuring thousands of NFL Legends and performances by numerous music icons, dedication of Centennial Plaza in Canton, and a day inspiring youth.

Joe Robbins/Getty Images

## AUGUST 6-9

### PFHOF ENSHRINEMENT WEEK

**profootballhof.com/tickets**

Honor the Heroes of the Game at the 2020 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls in Canton, Ohio. Call 844-4HOFTIX for information on tickets and VIP packages for what's certain to be an unforgettable Enshrinement celebration that will see more than 120 living members of the Hall of Fame on hand to welcome the Class of 2020.

Martin Leitch/Getty Images

## DATES TBA

### INTERNATIONAL SERIES

**nfl.com**

The NFL International Series will continue during the 2020 regular season. The league has now hosted a regular-season game outside the United States for 13 consecutive years and in 2019 saw four games played in London and one in Mexico City, including the initial games hosted at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. So far, the Dolphins, Falcons, and Jaguars have been named host teams for next season's international games.

Aaron Sprecher/AP Images

## SEPTEMBER 10

### NFL KICKOFF

**nfl.com/kickoff**

The 2020 NFL season gets underway Thursday, Sept. 10, with a day-long celebration at the home of the Super Bowl LIV champion. It's all part of *NFL Kickoff Driven By Hyundai*, which in 2019 spotlighted the start of the NFL's 100th season at Chicago's Soldier Field with numerous fan-driven events, Legends appearances, and musical performances by Meek Mill, Meghan Trainor, and Rapsody prior to the Packers-Bears contest.

Joe Patronite/AP Images

Raymond James Stadium

## FEBRUARY 7, 2021

### SUPER BOWL LV

**nfl.com/superbowl**

The Super Bowl heads to Tampa for the fifth time as Super Bowl LV will be played at Raymond James Stadium, home of the Buccaneers. CBS will televise the game. Fans can learn more about the game and the events leading up to it on the NFL's social media platforms, the league's official Super Bowl website, and by visiting the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee website at tampabaylv.com.

**Steve Young (8) and Jerry Rice (left)** celebrate the 49ers' Super Bowl XXIX win as sportscaster Brent Musburger looks on.

# MY MIAMI MOMENT

## WINNING SUPER BOWL XXIX WASN'T REDEMPTION. IT WAS REALIZING A DREAM. *BY STEVE YOUNG*

**Redemption?** Why would people consider this victory a redemption of sorts?

No, for me and the 1994 San Francisco 49ers, Super Bowl XXIX was the culmination of a season's worth of perseverance, teamwork, commitment, dedication, and incredible hard work. Our regular season was precise, our postseason was meticulous, and we showed up at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium on Super Bowl Sunday knowing and believing we were special and destined to win that day. We knew our playbook inside and out and, more importantly, we knew we could rely on each other.

We spent the two weeks leading up to the Super Bowl preparing for the Chargers after defeating the Cowboys at home in the NFC Championship Game. The analysts considered *that* game the Super Bowl and any other matchup that followed would be a letdown. We refused to accept that narrative. We respected the Chargers and all their capabilities.

In my first two Super Bowl appearances – XXIII and XXIV – I had served as Joe Montana's backup. The difference this time is that it was my Super Bowl to lead.

We had some incredibly strong personalities in our locker room after (president/general manager) Carmen Policy and (team owner) Eddie DeBartolo spent the offseason fortifying the defense through free agent signings that included Deion Sanders, Richard Dent, Rickey Jackson, Gary Plummer, and Ken Norton Jr. And our offense was stacked with stars everywhere: Brent Jones, Jerry Rice, John Taylor, Bart Oates, Jesse Sapolu, Ricky Watters, William Floyd, etc.

Still, regardless of all that talent, I knew I had to lead our team to victory.

We desperately tried to keep our routines and rituals the same as always. I even moved my bed to Brent Jones' hotel room on Saturday night so we could share a room like we had done before every game all season long.

The crazy part of that whole week is how diligent we were about keeping routines. Then, on gameday, I decided to change up my entire pregame meal and consumed a mountain of waffles. Despite the waffles and pregame jitters, when I finally heard The Star-Spangled Banner, I was ready to go.

We received the ball to start the game. On our third play from scrimmage, Jerry Rice caught a pass and streaked past the Chargers' defenders for a 44-yard touchdown. We were ahead 7-0, and we never looked back. Nobody on this planet could touch Jerry with a head of steam and the ball in his hands. At the time, it was the quickest touchdown drive to open a Super Bowl, just 84 seconds into the game.

Our defense was stout and held the Chargers to a three-and-out. We got the ball back and it was déjà vu. On the fourth play of that drive, Ricky Watters made a tremendous catch, bounced off a couple of defenders and raced to the end zone with a 51-yard TD. We added two more touchdowns in the second quarter, on passes to William Floyd and Ricky Watters (again), and headed to the locker room up 28-10.

Jerry Rice and I connected two more times in the second half and, suddenly, it was 49-26 and I had thrown six touchdowns. That's more touchdown passes than any quarterback in the history of the Super Bowl. I hadn't thrown that many TD passes in a game in my entire life, but (offensive coordinator) Mike Shanahan was upset that we couldn't make it eight.

Still, six in the Super Bowl? Unbelievable!

I knew when I woke up that morning that, by the end of the day, my life would never be the same. Six touchdown passes and one huge Super Bowl victory later, my life wasn't the same. I was going to Disneyland!

***Steve Young** was the MVP of Super Bowl XXIX in Miami. Enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2005, he is currently an NFL analyst for ESPN.*

Eric Risberg/AP Images

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